3 1761 00059064 2

# Echoing

Evas

F
S211
E24

F
S717
E34

# Dedication

A dedication has been attempted towards our forefathers— to whom we owe so much; To the present inhabitants— to whom, have carried the task set out for them; And to the future generations; that will be able to look back into a simulance of records, to be able to in some future date, carry on from were we have left off.
May you all find joy in our attempt to reach this goal.

The Committee's.

# Forword

Our local history of the community up to 1980. This has been prepared as a mark of respect to our pioneers and teachers. In compiling this book we have tried to revive memories of the past, please the people of today and present a true record of the facts for the future. Some names and important events may have been omitted, but not intentionally. In general it is the record of the past, Written by the people themselves, or their children.

Perhaps, at times, we have been repetitious, but it is better to have a story told twice then not told at all. However, we hope our readers will overlook our shortcomings and from this book get a greater understanding of the enormous task faced by our forefathers. They were courageous men and women; as shown by their stories. Many left comfortable homes to come and wrestle with the wilderness and to build this community and make it possible for us to enjoy it as it is today.

We are strictly amateur and we wish you would bear this in mind as you read. Errors will creep in, despite all effort to check dates and facts. We ask for your forgiveness and hope you will think only of the family about which you are reading and over look all mistakes.

# Acknowledgements

Cover designed and sketched by Dianne Cradin of Wm. Harrison's log house. (Still standing today).

We owe a debt of graditude to the many who have helped in compiling, sending information, editing, typing and doing the paste-ups for this book.

Special mention should be made of the work done by Mabel Scramstad, Leonard Harrison, Mary Leitch and Noreen Tweidt in co-ordinating all the work required. Without their many hours of devoted effort this book would not have been possible.

LIBRARY
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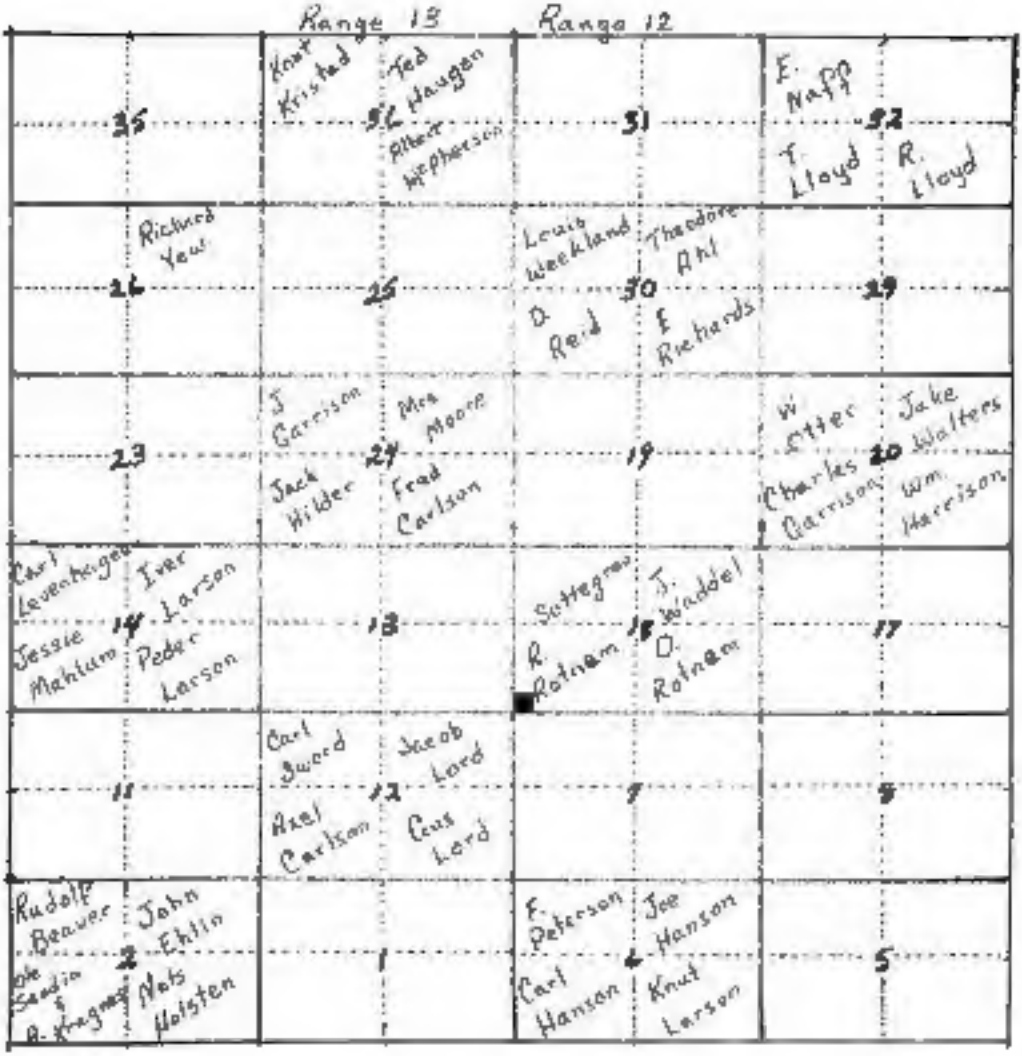
ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD MAP.

KEY

ROTHEUM SCHOOL ■ S.W. 18- 36- 12.
DUCK CREEK SCHOOL ● N.W. 14- 36- 12.

MEADOW BANK HALL ✱ N.W. 15- 36- 12.



Picture of a picnic held at Meadow Bank in 1920.

Range 12

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Garde<br>E. Thompson 34 J. Johnson | 35 | A. Barmen<br>J. Drummond<br>Barmen 36 Schmidt |
| Geo. Brantsema<br>Howard Harrison 29 Scott Brantsema<br>Alex Donald | 27 | Henry Schmidt 26 | 25 |
| 31 | P. Nelson<br>Feglin<br>C. Nelson 32 Joe Walters | 33 | J. Cowan<br>R. Cowan<br>Jack Lancely 34 John Schmidt |
| Elmer Ahl<br>Dan Morrison<br>Nyberg 16 R. Young | 15 | Tramberg<br>Monson<br>Christiansen 14 Christiansen | 13 |
| 9 | Jack McAfee<br>Anderson<br>Bjerke 10 | 11 | Knutson<br>Bringeson<br>Eck 12 Gus Faust |
| Dick Messenger<br>Jack Messenger<br>7 Bert John's | 3 | Sam Messenger<br>Jim Messenger<br>2 Jim Cunningham | 1 |

DO YOU REMEMBER.....

1. Lowering and lifting the milk and cream in the well.

2. Carrying water into the house, then after it was used once more it had to be carried out.

3. Walking to town for the mail, or just seeing a neighbor walking to town.

4. The smell we lived with from burning gas and coal oil lamps.

5. Going to town and buying a big 5¢ ice cream cone.

6. How fast you got dressed on a cold winter morning

7. Using and making lye soap.

8. Everyone jumping into the buggy or sleigh and spending an enjoyable afternoon or evening visiting at a neighbors and waiting for an invitation was unheard of.

9. Piles of wood that needed to be split and then carried inside.

10. The general phone ring to let everyone know of a shower, social evening or meeting.

11. Meadow Bank picnics.

12. Making that last trip outside to the outhouse before going to bed, and how scarry it could be on a dark night.

13. The excitement inside, when you tipped the outhouse.

14 Filling the reservoir with water.

15. Skating on the lake or Slough.

16. Building and traveling on corduroy roads.

17. Filling the oven with kindling for morning

18. Whenever the horses ran away, you could always find them standing in front of the barn door.

19. Standing by the warmth of the cook stove.

20. When the stores weren't self serve.

21. Quilting and threshing bees.

22. Ironing all those cotton clothes with sad irons.

23. Wagon full of Indians and their families camped along the road allowances with their horses hobbled.

24. Never being blocked in after a storm, as we always had a horse that didn't have to travel only on the road.

25. All the activity at the local Blacksmith and livery barn.

26. The strawstack slowly become mushroom shaped while the cattle chawed it through the winter.

27. Going to the local hall, school or barn to a dance as a family and not knowing what a baby sitter was.

28. The shapes of the clothes after they were hung outside to freeze, then brought inside again to thaw, drip and dry.

29. Being able to pick lots of Tiger Lilies and Lady Slippers.

30. Standing around a pot bellied stove visiting.

31. Recieving nothing but homemade gifts for Christmas,that meant more to us than anything that could have been bought.

32. Mom mending, Dad reading and the children doing homework around the kitchen table, with a coal oil lamp in the center.

33. Bathing on friday nights in a laundry tub, and the whole family bathing in the same water with only a little hot water added after the next member got in.

34. Felt Socks and Felt Boots.

35. Digging and selling senaca roots.

36. Getting ice from the ice house for homemade ice cream.

37. Stooking.

38. Climbing and sliding off sheave stacks.

39. Jack rabbit stew.

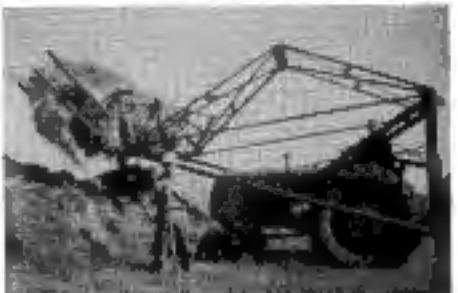
40. The churn and the scrub board.

41. Spatts and britches.

42. Horses with their oat bag and the blinders

VI

PARKING THE OLD AND THE NEW WAYS



# Elmer Ahl Family

Submitted by Clara Elmerson

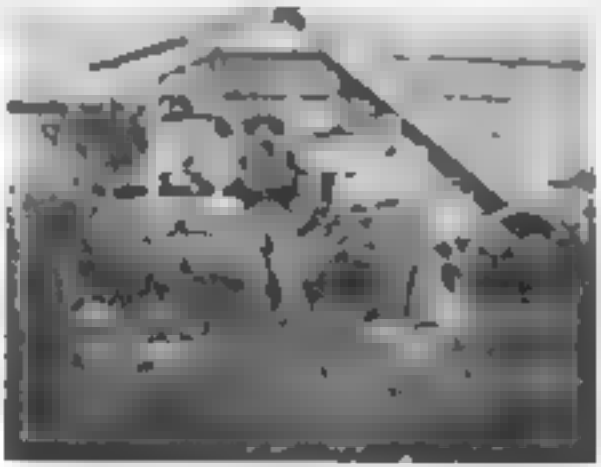
Dad came to Canada in the year 1905 to file on the NE¼ 12 in April 1906. Dad and my brother Henry who was then 12 years old, built a lodging for his family. Later that same year the family came, my mother, grandmother Pop and on my mother's side her brother Winfred who was 14 years old and myself, a baby of a few months.

Dad and Henry met us at Wadena with oxen and the wagon. Dad had bought some stock and machinery with him from Minnesota when he came with Oscar and Rudolph Pothuis who also brought machinery and stock.

Our first stop was at Carl Hansens as Mother and grandmother felt the strain of travel. Carl and Annie were very kind also and willing to help. They always remained our good friends.

Dad pre-empted more land and did some building. My Dad's father Theodore A. came and spent his remaining years with us. A year before he died my sister Rosa was born. Theodore died in 1910 and Grandmother in 1912. My grandparents came from Sweden sometime before 1905.

Mother and Dad were married December 21, 1899 in Nebraska. Dad helped to build the [illegible] He was a good breaker of land for his neighbors as he had a team. He engine and thresher with a wooden separator, similar to the one in the picture.



In the early days at Dan Lee had used to play the south organ.

During the long winters our social events were dances here and [illegible] where the boys and [illegible] would be all ready and packed off at midnight and the performers a lunch with the lady who provided the dance. The money raised would go to some good cause. Eric and Rosa [illegible] played for many of the [illegible] Brother Henry and [illegible] Mother played the violin.

Dad bought his first horses from Mr. Preuss at Kelvington.

Elmer Ahl Family - continued

I started school at Duck Creek in 1913 with Mr Sanger as my first teacher I sat with my friend Orien Gowan all the years I went to school other friends were, Mary Burge, or Dollie, as we fondly called her Dayton Linden, Albert Lancely and four of the Monson family, Mary, Agatha, Euphemia, and Katherine.

Mr and Mrs Fred Burge had the post office and were our close neighbors as were the Lindens Harrisons and John Waddell The Meadow Bank Hall was across the lake from us Here we enjoyed many good dances and picnics To get to the hall we used to cross the lake in a boat In 1920 we moved to the Orpington district, Years later I married Emerson and we had three sons, Arne, Clarence and Harold Henry married Marie Scott and had one daughter Josie Rose married Martin Norberg and there were three daughters to that union, Annie, Christine, and Willie.

Reuben Augustus Family

Maisie and Egbert Augustus were the children of Reuben Augustus. They lived for a short time on the NE¼ 14 36, 12. During this time the children attended Duck Creek School

Maisie in 1924-25 and Egbert in 1926-27 The family later moved to Kelvington where their father became editor of the Kelvington Radio.

Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring

Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring were married in July of 1916 at Beaver Flats Saskatchewan, near Swift Current. They operated a dairy farm there for nine years, then moved to the Wadena district and then to the Rotnum area in 1934, settling on the NE¼ 4, 36, 13

The Austrings had thirteen children, eleven of whom attended the Rotnum School

Iona - Mrs Darryll Gibbs, Billings, Montana.
Reuben - Toronto
Norman - Regina
[illegible] - St. Paul, Minnesota
Raymond- Lethbridge
Evelyn - Mrs. Art Anderson, Calgary
Olive - Mrs. Howard Tranmer Langley, B.C.
[illegible] - Mrs Jim Spady, Broadus, Montana, U.S.A
Elmer - Toronto, Ontario
Shirley- Mrs. Andy Wilk, Saskatoon
Donald - Wadena

Mr. Austring served as a trustee on the Rotnum School board for six years He retired from farming in the 1960's but continued to reside on the farm until his death in 1976.

Mrs Austring now lives in Wadena Of the forty years spent on the farm she says "They were the happiest years of my life"

## Rueben Austring

Born on June 29 1920 at Beaver Flats, Saskatchewan At the age of four we moved to Swift Current where my parents operated a dairy farm, "Austring's Dairy."

My schooling began in Swift Current and did not enter Rotnum until high school, Grade 10 in 1937.

My wife Ann and I have four children - two girls and two boys, we all live in Ontario. I am extensively involved in International Trading of all kinds.

## Herman Allen Family

Herman William Allen
Marjorie Almeda (Whaley)

Mr. and Mrs Allen moved to the Rotnum district in 1912, and lived in this approximate area for 44 years. Mr. Allen farmed all his life until he retired. Mrs. Allen taught school for many years. Some of the loves of Herman's life were, trading horses or cattle and many a good deal was made.

Their family of five were a great joy to them, they were,

| | |
|---|---|
| Francis Mabel | 1927 |
| Joyce Marjorie | 1929 |
| Marion Alice Roberta | 1934 |
| June Rose | 1939 |
| Garry Herman | 1944 |

Mrs Ronald McInnis - Submitted by Francis

We were married in 1950 and had our wedding dance in the Meadow Bank Hall. We lived in Strathclair Manitoba until 1956. Then moved to New Westminster, B C., and here we still live

We have two children, Ronda and Randy. Ronda married Kurt Trose in January 1977, and Randy married Myio Eickhart in December 1978. They both live in New Westminster.

Mrs. Erhard Windhaber - Submitted by Marion

Joyce - Mrs. Hagge has two daughters, now lives in New Westminster, B.C.
Marion - Mrs. Erhard Windhaber. We have two daughters and three sons We now reside in Prince George, B C
June Mrs. Kiland, has two sons and one daughter They reside in Prince George.

Windhaber family continued-

Garry - wife Ruby they have two sons and one daughter. They reside in Prince George and Mr. Allen has his home in the same yard as Garry.

Submitted by the comittee on behalf of Brian and Curtis Anderson.

Their parents are Evelyn and Art Anderson and they resided with Grandma and Grandpa Austring while they attended Rotrum School

Brian is single and Curtis is married with a family of two children. He is a carpenter by trade and both boys live in Calgary

Benjamin Avery Family.

I was the former Lavada Leopart and my parents farmed near Evebrow Peak. We came to Grande Prairie and I married Benjamin Avery when he was a young man from England. He had gone to Canada and later a soldier in both Wars. Eventually he had taken up farming at Pouce Coupe.

We were the onset of the depression and what we commonly call the "dirty thirties" and found it necessary moving north to the Meadow Bank district in September of 1931

My brother, Leonard and I, along with my four children, and the family dog came with our belongings on a Model T. We arrived on the train with the machinery, cattle and horses.

The winter was spent with Clive and Ted Rhean my sister and her husband. From here two of the children, Ted and Rose went to school in Grande Prairie. In the spring the family moved to the NW¼, 10-71-6 W6 2, where we lived for about sixteen years.

By now the second World War was on and both Ben and our eldest son Ted had joined the Army. I with the help of the other children I carried on the farming.

Later, we bought a farm adjoining the Meadow Bank Hall. A new house was built but Ben passed away in 1[illegible] but the farm still remain in the family and is farmed by the youngest son Jack. I am residing in Madana

Rosella (Avery) Bloom.

I attended the Duck Creek School from 1931 - 39 My teachers were Eva Harrison Mr. Gordson and Miss. Amy Eskelson (Brown)

Memories Avery Dixon - continued

[illegible] Bonnie & Wright and Avery Pendleton made up the actual [illegible] a number we had to drive [illegible] to look like [illegible] Memphis in the [illegible] remember [illegible] to [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] and Bonnie Thomas & Ted and [illegible] We probably got a record [illegible]

[illegible], had permission from [illegible] to attend Park [illegible] [illegible] graduate [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Ruby (Avery) Mask, continued

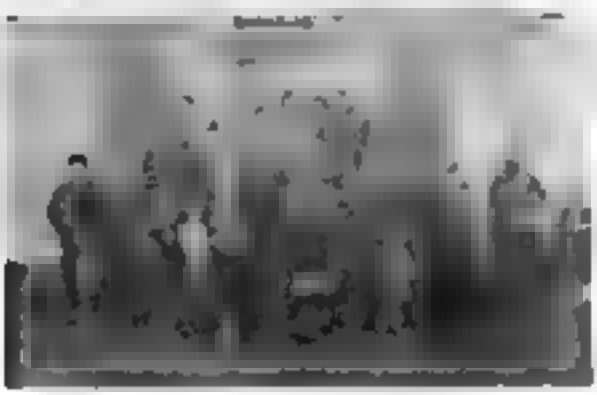
The field day was held on a clearing beside Meadow Park lake, starting with a school parade each school with its banner At noon we could receive a free hot dog, a pop, drink and ice cream.

When all the events were over and the points counted, the school with the most points would receive the trophy for the year The boy and girl with the highest individual points were given silver medals and a bronze medal for the highest points in each age group. The day ended with a dance in Meadow Park Hall.

All the students of that time received their immunization shots at the school or hall The Doctor and a nurse or 2 came -- Dr Ferguson and Dr Joseph were the doctors I remember, later all the other schools came to the hall and took part

As you can see Meadow Park Hall was a place of much activity Every two weeks there was a Friday night dance also every Saturday night Wedding dances were all held there and every election day it became the polling station.

On Sunday the United Church held services every other week from spring until fall it moved to the roads Special services, such as Mother's Day tea was served at the conclusion of the service For the Thanksgiving service the hall was decorated with vegetables, jars of jam and pickles which were then given to the Minister After harvest the old age pensioners would put on a fowl supper and bazaar In the spring the women's institute would sponsor a ham supper and dance These two events were eagerly awaited and well attended



This is a picture of a gathering of the women where everyone came and brought their favourite dish Here we see Mrs Lister bringing her lunch donation.

Don Amstring

I was the seventh son of Mr. and Mrs Ingvald Amstring In ten of my brothers and sisters were to go through the doors of Rosham school I was not exactly a stranger to the place I recall the afternoon I think I was in grade 1 when we were out in the school yard, I was enjoying myself playing catch with a stone

Don Auestring continued

[illegible] girl on the
[illegible]nd Rotnum justice was handed out
[illegible] from a horses harness!

[illegible] driven by Harold
[illegible] by one of t[illegible]

[illegible] ereabouts That ended our activities

[illegible]

[illegible]

of school childre[illegible]

June (Austring) Spady

I started school at Westport near Hato a where I spen one month before moving to and r ish r I arried ge a pl s a at ere were also a fi r dren attending not m from t ca re a e e f arriving at t e s l in r t e first s and were greeted by he r de s r 'd have been a wonderful experience had I not had so many brothers and sisters with me.

he rst eleven years were spe at m he s stand g over s were s r was r and d s o p s and of each school year. I ra l tas f ar remains ere crap-

For grades XI and XII I attended a Christian high school at ers s ng high school. Sybil ar s r s r s training at Yorkton General Hospital from 1950 to 53. e r ed Hospital from 1953 - 1955.

l e a l of was rent n preparation f r ming a mod - rn ne ary s. I spent a r s a ere ne - s t e ere we r ge a ere ne pa le were ar ed in s we were er a ne s ar as m a ere r s s spa s e ve e a s are e r ed g a s and ra ro ers ere r ed ra g e s ro s ontario.

We have ree sons avid are ale s a s a r ed ra ded ne r as r ed ra ro ers a d l e ood s g ne to er a e r s

erbert and Laura Booth, along

erbert was of Engl s ar a ra, s a we e ed in Ontario and had ra s a a a a a ra ar a a s ra ed

Herbert Booth Family continued

Mr. and Mrs Booth moved to Kenvington to retire in 1954 Garnet and his wife Agnes, reside on the home farm with their three daughters, Marilyn presently of Saskatoon, Lorraine in Grade XI and Michelle in Grade X at the Kenvington High School.

## Albert Bjarke Family

Submitted by daughter Olga Murray.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bjarke were both born in Norway and later came to the U.S A., where they were married.

Albert came to Canada while still single, and worked on the railroad and in logging camps. He homesteaded north of Wadena on the SW¼ 16,.2 While living there the five children attended Duck Creek School It was a long walk of six miles so it is no wonder some of them became discouraged and left school before the age to do so

In the early days the horses were worked all day in the fields, so most people were great walkers, especially our family. They walked many miles attending Church services at the home of Reuben Wickstrom

Some years later, Albert acquired land at Stove Creek, north of Lintlaw

Albert Bjarke passed away and was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Hendon Mother and Carrie walked to Hendon, carrying their garden tools to tend the grave Sister Annie took care of Mother until she passed away

Submitted by Dan Bjarke

My father, Albert Bjarke was a school teacher, teaching languages in Dalwich, Minnesota. He sailed a lot in Norway He met and married Olivia Erickson, and later moved to the Duck Creek area on a farm. They had five children, Carrie, Annie, Daniel, Olga and Henry.

Albert farmed his land with horses and whatever machinery they had It was six miles to walk to school, I didn't like to walk so far so as a result I didn't like school. I would have liked to have buses to ride like they have now. School teachers that I remember were Mrs. Pearn, Mr. Lowen and Mr MacKenzie. My best friend was a Negro boy Columbus Skinner, whose Mother and Father farmed in the area too They moved back to the U.S A.

My Father used to fire guard the school grounds. Times were hard not much money people lived from farm produce and gardens. Many had to go to work at an early age.

Bjarke Family continued

I went to Alberta to logging camps, this was a new kind of experience for a young fellow.

My sister Annie married Andrew Nielsen of Swan River, Manitoba. Olga married [illegible] Murray of Port [illegible] and [illegible] were a wee never met and passed away in [illegible]. Henry the [illegible] served overseas [illegible] in World War I. He was in the ground [illegible] as an Highlanders, Eight Army.

It is hard to remember it was a long time ago

Fred Burge family

Submitted by Mary Burge

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burge came to Grande Prairie from [illegible] Ont. and in 1928. Mr. Burge worked [illegible] a year to come to the Peace [illegible] and [illegible] not sell the [illegible] required homes and [illegible] years in order to "prove" or obtain the title.

He also built a log barn but as after the [illegible] to put up or that was fit to drink and never did have a convenient supply of good water.

He bought a team of oxen from Tom [illegible] and 2200 pounds as they could pull a load [illegible] to [illegible]. They would look around as though laughing when the [illegible] broke

In 1919 he bought 81 1 [illegible] quarter [illegible] and then 81 [illegible] 2. The Meadow Lake Post Office was at the Burgess home from [illegible] and at that time the Burge Auto was [illegible] ahead with the mail driver having to [illegible] the Peace from Dating to [illegible] or Fairfield was a last mail run on the route driving through all kinds of weather

Mr. and Mrs. Burge had one daughter Mary or Dorothy as she is [illegible] called. She and her parents moved to Edson on retirement in [illegible]. They bought a home at South of the town. They both passed away in [illegible] Dorothy at [illegible] was in her home giving [illegible] and was then willing to give a helping hand to any of her neighbors

Mary the recruiter has given me the paragraph is a word of Thanks

Axel Carlson Family

Submitted by Ruby Johnson

Axel was born in [illegible] Sweden in December, 1880. In 1909 as a young man he came to Grande [illegible] settling in Manitoba

Axel Carlson Family continued

Later he came to the Wadena district and in 1912 he took up his homestead on the SW¼ 12, 35, 13. That same year Axel returned to Sweden to bring his bride, Hulda, back to the homestead.

Axel, with his dry wit was always a welcome guest, and added spice to any get-together. He was one of the early trustees of the Rotnum school, although they were never fortunate enough to have children of their own to attend that school. However they were able to give of their love and opened their home to other small children.

Magna was five years old when she came to live with them. She attended school at Rotnum, but unfortunately in 1927, she became ill and passed away within a short time at the age of fourteen.

Later Ruby Wickstrom came to live with them and attended Rotnum School in 1935. She later married a Ross Valley farmer Magnus Johnson and they are now retired and live in town.

Her sister, Birdie, also spent some years with them.

Mr and Mrs. Carlson will be remembered for owning one of the first classy Model T Ford coupes in the district.

In 1960 the Carlsons returned to Bjernlunda, Sweden to live. Axel passed away in 1968 and Hulda in 1967.

## Ole Christianson Family

Submitted by Violet Brady

My parents Ole and Nettie Christianson, were both born in Norway. Father's name was Alfred, but everyone called him Ole They emigrated from Norway to the Langham area, and later to the Hendon district. They took up residence on Sec. 23, 36, 11, and continued to farm which was the only occupation Father had been interested in since a boy

Allan and I were the only children. While I would not remember, I have since learned that Mrs Sven Torgerson was the midwife who assisted at my birth The Torgersons were our neighbors for many years.

My brother and I have both attended Rotnum School, and I have memories of riding a white horse named Daisy. Some of my classmates were Eileen and Margaret Svenson, Azida, Luella and Evangeline Mahlum, Sybil Garrison and Francis Kiland

I married Kirk Brady of Aylsham and we have four children. We now live in Saskatoon. Allan married Eunice Kidd and has three daughters.

## John Coates Family

John William Coates came to Canada in 1911. In 1916 he joined the 22nd, battalion in Winnipeg and served overseas. After his discharge from the Forces in 1922 he came to Kelvington and settled on a farm in the Meadow Bank area. In 1923 he married Florence Carr of England, in Wadena. They had two sons, Edward Joseph and Raymond Derrick. On December 16, 1939 Florence died following a short illness. She played a very active roll in the Ladies Aid and was a very dear friend to all the people she came in contact with.

Edward married Merle Griffith of Wadena on his return from service overseas in the Second World War and is now farming the old homestead. Raymond lives in Yorkton.

In 1941, Jack married Christina Benton of Bladworth. They had five children, Isabelle Saskatoon, Elden Kelvington Anna (Mrs. Bob Moyes) Estevan Carol (Mrs. Larry Mitzerland Wayne both living in Cranbrook, B.C.

Jack Coates passed away on October 6, 1976 and was buried in Kelvington. Christina lives in Kelvington

### Ted Coates

Submitted by Teddy Coates

Edward Joseph Coates Teddy was born while the [illegible] family lived on the Miller farm, the present John Larson farm. Later the family purchased the Sanford farm and moved there.

On leaving school Teddy had an interest in farming and as a result he worked in the Meadow Bank and Kelvington areas on several farms.

In the year 1944, he enlisted for service overseas with the Regina Rifle Regiment. He returned in the year [illegible] on the Meadow Bank area, and purchased the former Art Magnuson farm near his Dad's and began farming.

Ted and Merle Griffeth of Wadena were married [illegible] and they have two children, a son Randy and a daughter Fiore[illegible] and a grandson Cody.

Randy is presently employed in Edmonton and Fiorehre Christianson) resides on a farm west of Hendon. They have a son Cody.

In 1966, Teddy purchased his father's farm and lived there for ten years. He then purchased the Fred Fryhirski farm and is now residing there. He has been a councillor for the R. M. of Saaman for a number of years. Raising Angus cattle has been one of his interests for quite sometime along with having an interest in 4-H Club activities.

Mrs Coates continued.

Here is a typical scene in the days long ago. This is Mrs Coates and her two small sons help her with the threshing To some of us these were the times to look forward to. I can't help but think that it must have been hard work, Mothers had to take their children with them to the fields and barns, as they had to do the chores while the men were harvesting.

Mrs. Coates was an avid quilter she stitched along with the rest of the ladies, They found this a very good way to get together and visit.

Raymond Coates

Raymond Derrik Coates was born while the Jack Coates family lived on the Miller farm. After leaving school he worked on several farms in the Meadow Bank and Kelvington areas.

He farmed the Coates home place for three years (1944-46), then worked in Coates Motor shop in Kelvington for three years. The shop was sold and Raymond worked under the new management until 1951. He moved to Yorkton and worked for Early Springfield Fire until 1955. He was employed on a farm near Yorkton for two years.

He is presently working for the city of Yorkton

Raymond and his wife Laura live at 19 Myrtle Avenue, Yorkton. They make their annual journey to the Meadow Bank district for visiting and get-togethers.

## Ernest Davis Family

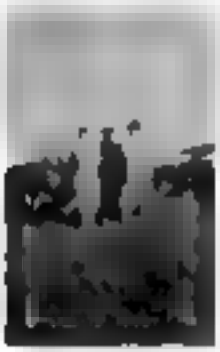
Submitted by Mary Leitch

Ernie or "Pop" Davis as he was fondly referred to came with his wife from [illegible] to the [illegible]. He lived on the NE¼, 7, 36, 12, near the Rotnum School.

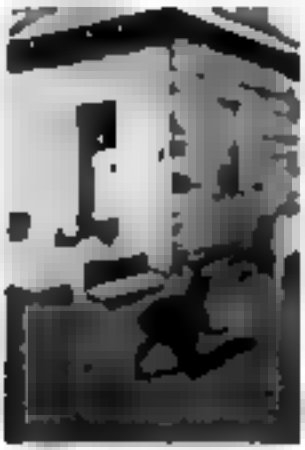
They had one child an adopted daughter Margaret, now Mrs. Fred [illegible] of Parry Sound.

Mr. Davis was a self employed veterinary. In the 1930's there was an outbreak of a disease among the horses and he managed to save the lives of many. [illegible] treatment. Every day he would make his rounds with a team and Bennett buggy.

As their home was within walking distance of Rotnum school, many teachers made this home their boarding place.



Pictured here is one of the teachers that stayed at the home. [illegible] Mr. Davis happy to see that he was one of the old pupils. [illegible] Mrs. Davis liked her work around the kitchen she was a jolly person and a happy cheerful soul.



Many of the old friends remember their dear friend Mr. Davis as he was a well trained veterinary. He was also a lover of animals. He would drive his team from place to place. Many a night he could be seen driving his horses and buggy on his way to visit a sick animal.

Mrs. Davis loved children and always had an open door and kind heart to share with them.

Their greatest recreation was a good game of [illegible] with the neighbours. The prize to be won was usually a box of candy.

They were just one of the many neighbours [illegible] in the area that have created very dear memories.

After the [illegible] for a moment they [illegible] and both passed away a few years later.

Mrs. [illegible]

# Alfred Derbyshire Family

Submitted by George Derbyshire

Alfred Derbyshire and his wife were both born in England. Alfred was orphaned when he was six years old and was cared for by Dr. Barnardo's Homes in London. When he was sixteen years old he was sent to Canada to the Dunbrae farm at Rubens, Manitoba.

He stayed in the Rennie area until 1904 when he came to Saskatchewan and took a homestead in the Hat Lake district. He filed on the NW 2 -14- 1W.

Edith Davies came to Canada in 1911 and married Alfred Derbyshire in 1[illegible]. George and Gertrude were born on the homestead at Hat Lake.

In 1918 Mr. Derbyshire drove a school van for the Balcarres School district making the round trip every day from Hat Lake to Earrington, as there was no school at Balcarres at that time.

About 1920 he sold the homestead to the Soldier Settlement Board and he got the NW 32 -1- 1W from Martin Berman. There Lila, Jessie and Jim were born.

This farm was surrounded by schools all at least five miles from our home. There were six days from eleven to home going to Grade one that was where we attended it was five of us from home. I must say we did not learn very much. As a rule I stood, riding five miles on an old pony we were too tired to study.

I still remember my first teacher Henry Jones he was a good teacher but very strict. I was scared stiff most of the time. Then we had Percy Huffman we got along good with him but we did not learn too much as we were still too tired. Then there was Mrs. Fa[illegible], she was a very good teacher and we got along good with her.

It is nice to meet and visit with the people I went to school with at Dark Creek. Some of them are away from home or this area, but they do get back on times and it is great to visit with them.

In 1928 Grand school was built just one mile from our home, we were happy to attend so close to our home.

I started farming on my own in 1911 in the Grand district. I married Marion Hall in 1913 and we moved to the Balcarres district in 1[illegible], and farmed there until 1976 when we sold the farm and retired in Kelvington.

We raised a family of five, two girls and three boys.

Alexander Donald Family

[illegible] sec.28-36-12 and during that [illegible] year for $15.00. At Meeney's [illegible] ever it rained for two days, the first [illegible] crawled into a [illegible] and all, to try

[illegible] and Ora [illegible]

The whole countryside was bush and [illegible]. However there was dry land in [illegible] ered them with clay. They thought [illegible] had only hammer, nails and an axe.

Scott Branscombe's place, and proce[illegible]
break five acres on [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

went back to Scotland. He said [illegible]

[illegible] Dad met Mother with a team and a [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] behind like a dog."

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ...ch in 1972, Mother [illegible] the farm was sold

[illegible]

Alex Donald family continued

[redacted]

Submitted by Rena (Donald) Blew

Rena was born on the 5th 28, 36, 12, a dest of the Sandy Donald famil

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]
very much. I wrote my Grade VIII then.

[redacted]
by Mr. John Lancley, the best ever.

[redacted]
Lindsay, Phyllis and Bert Parish.

[redacted]

Rena (Donald) Olson continued

I stayed home for several years. Our pleasures were Church, Young People, Ladies Aid, putting on plays, dances, quilting bees and visiting.

In 1919 I married Mark Olson who came to the district as a hired man from Shaunavon. Our first home was in Flin Flon where we lived until 1924. While in Flin Flon we adopted our daughter Dianne Thompson who lives at Meadow Lake. She has two daughters, Pamela and Dara.

After leaving Flin Flon we came back and built a house in Dad's yard in 1924. We moved to Rendon where Mark was co-op Manager until 1934. We spent our years like, the last two years, building our retirement home in Lexington, where we now reside

Submitted by Kenneth Donald

Kenneth (Ken) Donald was born May 24, 1917 second in a family of six to Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Donald of the Meadow Lake district.

He attended Duck Creek School from 1923 - 31, later remaining at home to help with the work on the farm of which there was plenty. They often worked three outfits of horses in the fields at one time. In time Ken and his brother Stuart ended up took over the farm work. Ken purchased land of his own, but remained at home.

In 1944 he met and married Mrs. Irene Elmer (nee Nassal) of Rose Valley. He moved to the Mel Lake district where they still live and are active in mixed farming. Ken learned to love horses at a very early age and they became his hobby, he still raises a few good horses to enjoy.

In 1955, their son Allister was born making a family of five children. They are all on their own now but come home often to visit, and to the joy of their parents.

Their family consists of Dianne and Mark Thorpe and Shasta of Regina Beach and Mr. Ireen Elmer, Maureen and Patrick of Harman, Maureen and Bob Grimes as of Fort Saskatchewan, Mary Ann and Mirvin Elmer and Pamela of Saskatoon and Allister of Saskatoon.

The Ken Donalds live on S.E. 22, 56, 14.

Submitted by Muriel (Donald) Cook

Remembering back to school years can be very vague in places and prominent in others. Travel to the three of us to Duck Creek School will never be forgotten. The dirt roads and mud trail through fields and pasture, the sloughs and the shortcuts during winter months. Sometimes we walked or drove a horse or team, whichever was available.

During wild berry season

never been right since".

as taught by her.

Muriel (Donald) Gest continued 23

There are wonderful memories of Nana Bolay's teaching years with us. I was in grade four or her arithmetic. The big girl sat next she amazed to see me chewing my finger nails. I admired her nails so much and she said "If I could only have finger nails and polished like Miss Bolay's". Yes, by it was during her teaching years with us, but I always thought she was quite special and always good at Christmas concerts and our anticipation for Santa Claus. My sister played the part, and no one else ever able to replace him.

The last two years at Duck Creek School I was able to take grades 4 and 5 by correspondence. Eric Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. Harrison he paid me whenever I was in need of gas money. I went to Victoria High School for grades 7 and 8. I boarded with Mr and Mrs Scott Bryanstone, that were memorable years.

After completing High School, I was off to work, mostly planting and off & on for [illegible] married George Hare. We farm south of Lake Cowichan and have one son, Grant who is at home farming.

Submitted by Elizabeth (Donald) Gest.

My years as a student at Duck Creek School were more than the average at that for one or two of the grades to four grades [illegible] and [illegible] Teacher to other grades [illegible] I was married [illegible] he used to take here with their annual Christmas concerts.

My memories of those years are not [illegible] some happy some sad some humorous and some "not so sure".

Ball, I remember our recess and noon hour softball and footba[illegible] I must have been [illegible] for as I ran very [illegible] and ended up [illegible] of the boys. When the noon hour [illegible] and [illegible] ahead to play. There was a very [illegible] "Prisoner's Base" "Red and Green" or "Last Couple Out".

Our modes of travel were varied depending on the season. Summers it was the car, it was horse and buggy but often there were four of us at one time. We drove a car and put on [illegible] brother Ian [illegible] at top speed over the ditch he [illegible] than once, [illegible] the other [illegible] to the annoyance of Dad who [illegible] have to repair it. In the spring the roads would be breaking up, so we had a ride horses for two or three weeks. Not only did we have to carry our own [illegible] but feed for our horses and any hours we may have. There we had to put it in bags, [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] We always made a point [illegible] horses rested [illegible] at noon for a nearer [illegible] This was a real [illegible] for a horse race [illegible] The rapport [illegible] and the winner carried a lot of prestige. Sometimes we [illegible] to school [illegible]

Everyone had a school horse

Each winter the young people of [illegible] blanket for him as a dress [illegible]

In I look back I realize what a large part the country school was a community and the work I did in our [illegible] ... [illegible] ... [illegible] ...

— [Donald] Promises continued

Submitted by Dorothy Dean Mt Oakland [illegible]

I was born in San and There Page Brook [illegible] and one of eight chil dren My fat er served and [illegible] my [illegible] er and a store at a cost [illegible] a be red a ha [illegible] 18 gre never [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] grandparents [illegible] never [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] grand other [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] him, and a [illegible] remembering her with great strength of character

The following excerpts of Antoine's story submitted by Mr. Cliff Lee of Gordon

Antoine was born in the year 17[illegible] at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and a color[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [

## Samuel Evans

Sam Evans came to the Rotnum District in the early 1920's or around 1919. He was very instrumental in helping to organize the Rotnum School District. Sam was the secretary of the committee to get the school built

The family consisted of John, Dorothy, Owen, Sam Jr., Bill, Lizzie, Mary and George

They lived on Sec. SW 6, 36, 12. Mr. Evans was a veteran

The family went to Duck Creek school.

## Anna Evenson Family

Mrs. Anna Evenson and three children Edward Clara and Bennie, moved to the district in 1912 and settled on the farm next to the Parsons NW 2 36 12 W1 Benn e was about 12 years when they arrived. He attended school in Victoria Park for a time then went back to Mar, North Dakota where he attended school and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church He returned to his Mother's farm in Canada.

In 1924 Benn e Evenson and Dollie Halsten were married and lived on the Evenson farm. They bought the land in 1926.

Bennie served on the Rotnum School Board for many years. In those days the district people did the upkeep and repairs on the school in order to save money. Benn e spent many hours helping with this job. His wife had the job of scrubbing the floors for a year or more.

Dollie and Bennie attended the Lutheran Church and Dollie has always been interested and active in the Ladies Aid.

They had five children Margret, Eileen, Gordon, Norman and Jean. They all had their elementary schooling at Rotnum except Gordon who was an invalid from birth.

Anna's three children

Benny Evenson's family

Ben Evenson family continued

Margret Evenson became a teacher and has now taught at various places in Saskatchewan for thirty-one years. She married [illegible] and Robinson from Springside in 1[illegible]. They have one daughter Anna of Edmonton, Alberta. Anna remembers attending Estevan School for one week while she visited her grandparents.

In 1[illegible] Dennis Evenson was instantly killed in a tractor accident. The family farm was purchased by Alfred and Margret.

Hallie Evenson has her home in the town yard. Her home is the old Estevan teacherage but she had two rooms built on and has made other renovations. She lives here during the summers and spends her winters in Alberta and British Columbia.

Alfred Evenson worked as a telephone operator in Weyburn and Estevan for many years. She married Art [illegible] of Moose Jaw in 1[illegible]. They have two daughters, Linda in Saskatoon and Cheryl, at Elk Island. Eileen and Linda have lived in Calgary for the past seven years. Eileen has done secretarial work since moving to Calgary.

Norman Evenson went to work on the railway with his uncle when he left home. He married Marion [illegible] in [illegible]. They have two girls, Shannon and Cheryl Ann. They now live in Taylor, B.C., where Norman is employed at the plywood mill.

Jane Evenson went to Winnipeg to work where she met and married Cecil Smith. They have six children [illegible]. Jane is a home nurse and Senora. They have lived in Calgary for the past fifteen years or more.

The Evenson children all remember that Wilma was a tease. They walked to school and in wet or rainy weather used a [illegible] made of a stone boat or in a cutter. Margaret and Eileen attended one whole winter.

## Flaatraund Family

In 1927 Svein Flaatraund was immigrated from Norway to the Estevan district. In [illegible] he followed him. They both worked on elevator construction during the summer. They bought land NE 11, 96, 1[illegible], and started farming.

In 1930 John Flaatraund and father Hans arrived. They all lived on the farm together. In [illegible] John and Svein moved away, and their father Hans returned to Norway.

Svein married Ethel Lindstrom who had been a teacher at Estevan School during [illegible]. They lived on the farm [illegible] when they sold to the Tweidt Brothers.

# Fuller Family

Submitted by Alice Mae Fuller

Father - Larry Fuller (English). Rancher in Chicago. Did not reside in Canada.
Mother - Alice Fuller (English), Nee Barber. Came from Chicago in the spring of 1913 with 3 small children.
Brothers - Lawrence Ernest Fuller
- Fahrman Fuller died in Chicago at 2 years of age)
Sisters - Helen Eleanor Fuller (Whyte)
- Rose Esther Burman (& sister, Purves).

Farm location - four miles west of Kelvington

Schooling - Duck Creek The teachers I remember are Mrs. Bob McLean, and Mrs. Billy McQuarry My school friends were Olive Gowan Caroline Esch and Albert Lancaley We travelled by horse and buggy four miles to school. I was good in spelling bees. Our first home had only two rooms

Step Father - Martin Burman (Dutch American), farmer.

Submitted by Fraser Whyte for wife Eleanor

One of the very early settlers to homestead in the Meadow Bank district was Mr James Brand who, with Mr. Alex Donald Sandy), immigrated to Canada from Leith, Scotland. Jimmy, as he was known, filed on the SE¼, 4, 37, 12, W2 in 1906.

Neither of these gentlemen knew anything about farming, in fact, Jimmy was a sailor and because of an eye injury, had decided to to leave the sea and come to Canada.

Their first log cabin was built on Sandy's quarter with logs perpendicular rather than horizontal, and the plastering left much to be desired

We, like many others, spent the winters in logging camps on the Red Deer to finance the next summer's farming. In 1914, he joined the 46th Battalion and was in the first draft that went overseas. He was killed on the Somme in 1916.

In 1917, his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Whyte came from Brandon and took over the farm. In 1919 Mr. Whyte passed away, and Mrs. Whyte with her son, Fraser, moved to Wadena. The farm was then rented until 1926 when nephew Fraser Whyte, took over. Fraser farmed it until 1973 with his wife Helen Eleanor Fuller whom he married in 1934. She was the second eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Burman

Fraser and Eleanor had a family of one son and four daughters. Fraser Jr. lives in Regina where he met and married Elaine Hostetinger. They have one son Trevor and two daughters ...ica and Tanya. Elva lives in Edmonton she is married to Jack Thompe formerly of Portage la Prairie She met him when she was in a nurse training there They have a family of one son and four daughters Brenda, Kerri Lianne and Sandra (twins) and Tammy Joseph lived in Regina where she met her husband, Ron Moore They have their own business Batmen's Electric They have one son Lyndon and two daughters Jennifer and Andrea Lillian Whyte is married to Lorne Perry of Stonewall Manitoba They have a family of two girls and a boy Sherri-Lynne Mary who has lived in Toronto for a number of years where she met and married Mark Ellis They have a family of one son Adam and one daughter Sherri-Anne They have now moved to Pine Point.

In 1913 Mr. and Mrs. Whyte retired and moved to Victoria. Their retirement was saddened by the passing of Mrs. Whyte's mother Mrs. Lillian Ann Hall who was living with her brother in Victoria Mrs. Whyte's father Mr. Fraser was married to Mary Ann Harper who was a native of Edinburgh, Scotland. He came to Canada in 1914 with his pioneer parents.

A matter of interest in 1878 when Mrs. Whyte was a little girl a mile and a half from Mr. Fraser's homestead a child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Whyte. This child later married and moved into Saskatchewan and developed into a farm.

Jay Garrison Family

Submitted by Cyril Garrison Wainwright

Memories of Barrow Creek School

In the spring of 1914 I commenced grade I at Barrow Creek School. The school was a wooden building painted brown and situated on a knoll about a mile from the main road. The building was surrounded by a white picket fence. The teacher was an artist at this nightly task.

Mr. and Mrs. Whyte

For the first day of school I donned a navy serge skirt, sewn by my mother, a red sweater, from one more fashionable days, and a red tam. Lunch consisted of a lard pail. Sandwiches were made of homemade bread with butter, bought from Mr. Thompson's Red and White store in Hamiota and cookies or a few dates for a treat.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught to six beginners by Miss Smith who I'm sure was frustrated By Friday he was ready to call it a day.

[illegible]

Sing Blue Bird sing

[illegible]

[illegible]

cave the coal oil and a fine tooth combi

[illegible] woman who bore the [illegible] color must have bee[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Sybil Weinmeister continued

& crossword puzzle, providing there

Memories submitted by Louise Garrison

Leslie Garrison continued

[redacted]

In 1905, Saskatchewan [redacted]
land to the east

[redacted]. No doubt this

[redacted]

with other romp traitors. Then Mae, my father's youngest sister, was stricken with diphtheria and passed away. And finally my grandfather fell ill with the heartbreak of winter in the state of Montana. He'd returned from the Klondike with a load of firewood to keep his cabin warm, but lost his toes to amputation. Winter was a spring and summer later, my grandfather died at the Veterans Hospital. Five years later, on that day, which he was to be disinherited. Eventually, however, he succumbed to a heart attack on the very day he was to go home.

To [illegible] another immigrant arrived in Canton. She was Mary [illegible] Harris, a strawberry, and great girl from [illegible] Mary had come to America with her father who was living in Canton when [illegible]

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Garrison

Subsequently, Mary Harris and her father moved to the Modena area. [illegible] Harris later to become the only [illegible] apparent. [illegible] my parents [illegible] passed a [illegible] one of [illegible] approved [illegible] from the [illegible] and on [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] more. [illegible] property was [illegible] about a mile east [illegible] [illegible] the interest [illegible] of [illegible] property [illegible] and [illegible]. My grandfather Harris [illegible] very proud man and [illegible] upright, [illegible] part of [illegible] right. He was [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

to "kill two birds with one stone."

rather was freq
which he thorou
Knowing my fat

lar. The next day my father returned

"Rebe and Tootsie"

I recall, as if it were yesterday, the in-
sion that welled up within me for the un-
fortunate children of the story.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] Ingram [redacted]

Miss Cherry took over the teaching duties at Rochum School in [redacted] the plant into the veins of the leaves

[redacted]

Leslie Garrison continued

It was during this year 1924 that I recall having seen our first car. It was a Model T Ford Touring car which the three fact y could drive up to the Rathna School on Friday afternoons to take their daughter back to Nadena for the summer weekend.

Other signs of progress were beginning to manifest themselves in our community. I have reference to the CPR which linked Perdue and Biggar with Saskatoon.

Laying the Rails

Little did I realize that Sunday afternoon in 1924 when my father and Mr. Parr took my sister Ma ie and I in the old buggy to the railroad right-of-way to watch the tracklaying process that it would significantly change the life style of the entire community. No longer would farmers have to haul their grain 15 or 20 miles to Watrous or Hanley. Soon small towns like Meacham with grain elevators and a store or two, a post office and a blacksmith shop etc. would spring up along the right-of-way. Ultimately the advent of the railroad in our area contributed directly to the improvement of the lot of the farmer which resulted in the Rathna School District.

A regular visitor to our school, at least once a year and sometimes twice was a dignified old gentleman from Watrous by the name of Mr. Weaver. As School Inspector in the winter time he covered the livery services available in Watrous and would drive out with a team of horses hitched to a cutter. In the summer I believe he first drove a Ford and later in a Model T. In any case the children of Rathna School were always excited to have company and we prepared by getting together to be on our best behaviour. So it was that when our teacher went to answer the front door and returned with Mr. Weaver we would automatically stand to attention beside our desks in respect for this venerable old man.

During his tour of inspection Mr. Weaver would customarily take over some of the teaching duties for a short time. On one of his visits I recall that he waxed very eloquent as he recited for us lines from the famous Indian poetess Pauline Johnson. I can still hear him and still recall the twinkle in his eye as he recited from the "Song my Paddle Sings".

"West winds blow from your prairie nest
[illegible] blow from the west"

In 1924 Rathna School district hired its first male teacher, Perry Heffron from Lexington. His parents were pioneers in the Lexington area.

[illegible]

[illegible] planning to expand and during Mr. Lessen's

[illegible]

[redacted]

for the calendar year. Thus it was

[redacted] is name was Mr.
Charles Spencer, he had just c[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

blade. When I withdrew my hand thr[redacted]
very seriously. Mac and I [redacted]

In those days we did not have a [redacted]

in his Model A Ford Coupe. We [redacted]

a profession in life.

as he did!

that year, 1929 for the first time

me and to Mr. Spencer, who inspired me.

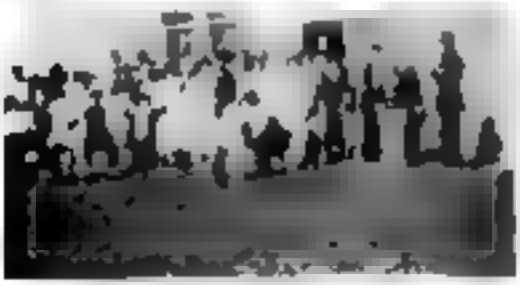
ticular, my ninth grade studies

1929 was the year it

**Leslie Garrison**

Sybil made her debut into this world on April 14, 1920 in the middle of the spring [illegible]. There was not one car seen on the roads to permit transportation by motor and the roads were too muddy to accomodate any type of wheel. However the farmers had already had a goal in mind. They were trying their horses and plowing in the fields on the last vestiges of the old years crop. Thus it happened that when in the very early hours of the morning mother came to experience [illegible] pangs of approaching delivery that my father and mother accompanied by a midwife or good neighbor Mrs. Ivan Patterson took to the old horse trail and headed for Madera hoping [illegible] that same morning, following mother's admonition - none the worse for the trip!

Throughout the years, Fairview School served as a focal point for the activities of the residents of the district. Each year there were at least three box suppers, one Halloween party, a Christmas program and an end-of-the-year picnic. All these activities were instrumental in the [illegible] parts of Interest [illegible] However perhaps the greatest benefit in the development of the [illegible] Moreover it provided the children with an opportunity to discuss the topics that concerned farmers the most, crops, weather and politics.



The year end picnic of 1931.

See how many you can name. These were the days to [illegible] when everyone took a run at the ice cream [illegible] or whatever needed doing. Good days. Good memories.

[illegible] farmers of [illegible] or as [illegible] Can you identify [illegible] and [illegible] Let's see what they are like [illegible]

I still have two [illegible] Mother would [illegible] from the rear [illegible] She was a [illegible] Each [illegible] party [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

complete works of Shakespeare in

before the conclusion of the program

Charles Spencer was succeeded by Miss Anita Bryant. She came

too, some of us older boys

Accordingly, we hung the wet corpse
Miss Bryant did react but not

namely, her gender
her spiritual val
women who beli

was casting the former

[illegible] brothers below [illegible] Myrtle and Alma all [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Back Counties

In those days as a young man [illegible] for land and on May [illegible] got [illegible] and [illegible] to Meadow Bank [illegible] and registered a file on the land.

[illegible] and [illegible] the spring of [illegible] with [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] three days before her 93rd birthday

[redacted]

John Cowan and Ida Thompson were reared in the beautiful [redacted] to Ottawa at Poltimore, Quebec. In [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[illegible]

[illegible] and blacksmithing [illegible] had been on the road, loaded, for ei[illegible]

Probably this accommodation was
[illegible] as of most Meadowbankers than the
[illegible] of our father
it was

[illegible] d it b[illegible]

[illegible] for public alva[illegible] help of his good
[illegible] he was the first se[illegible]
[illegible] A.F.&A M. (Masons) and

[illegible]

[illegible] trail so it was agreed that each should have one of [illegible] that [illegible] Katrine's side of the bunny out on the rough [illegible] Wasserfall's [illegible] the new bicycle [illegible] a level stretch of trail [illegible] nose in a perfect draw

[illegible] cream sepers or

[illegible]

He returned to England durin[illegible]

Edna Nova nee Dobson

[illegible]

We left Kelvington when I was six in 1929 when Dad went to Sherridon Man and Mother took the rest of us to England for six months visiting her relatives friends and Dad's relatives returning to Kelvington for a short time and then on to Sherridon where I lived until the war. I did return to Kelvington in 1932 (when the mine closed at Sherridon) for about a year and stayed with my Aunt and Uncle(The Caddy's) At this time I went to Brand School.

Children of NOEL GRICE

Left to Right

Evelyn Alan, Edna & Rosaland

Wilma Donald was a special friend Our families the Caddy's and the Harrisons as I remember were close friends. Mother always kept in touch I have no recollection of Rotnum School at all.

GRICE submitted by Alan Grice

My name is Alan R Grice, my father was Noel, my mother Helena I had three sisters Evelyn Rosalind and Edna in order as birth.

I was born at Sec 16-37-12-W2nd Saskatchewan where we lived until I was 6 years then moved closer to Duck Creek which I attended for over 2 years. Then went to England

My Father came to Kelvington in 1906 as a young boy to work at the age of 11 he stayed with his sister Mrs Edgar Caddy and brother of Preeceville Dad went overseas in the 1st WW and married Helena Thaxton They moved to the farm of my birthplace.

I have crossed many rivers since living on the Homestead 6 miles north of Kelvington

Left to Right
Back Row
Eric Grice, Noel & Helena Grice, Amalia & Edgar Caddy

Front Row
Baby Alan Unknown
Stanly Caddy

Ron and his wife [illegible] conba, Sask., live in Hu
of Sask. College of

[illegible], live on a farm east
farmer, Raymond is the Sale[illegible]

Lawrence and his wife Cindy Niezgoda of Kelvington, make their home in Wadena. Lawrence is a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Arts and Science and the College of Education. He is a driller for Cactus Drilling and a farmer in his spare time. Cindy is a graduate of the Kelsey School of Nursing.

Kathryn lives in Saskatoon. She is attending the university of Sask. College of Education.

My family and I owe much to Rotnum School, where I taught for three years from 1953 to 1956.

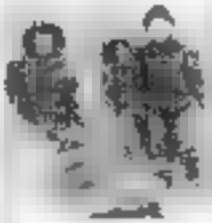
Seymour Leitch

Helmer Lillijord

Otto Schau
Earl Leitch
Paul Mack

The Engineer Ken Leitch

Ice Blocks To Melt



The Job Well Done

Chop the wood for the winter warmth

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Rotnum school was built their interes

Bank community activities.

and Ann Nicholson 1939-40 approx.

died at age 3, stricken with influenza in

rs of age(1928 .
l from answer

and Mr. Lavely acted as Santa

[illegible]

[illegible] and Nendon Halls.

[illegible] confirmed at the same time, approx. Aug. 191

[illegible]

[illegible]

Following Larry's [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

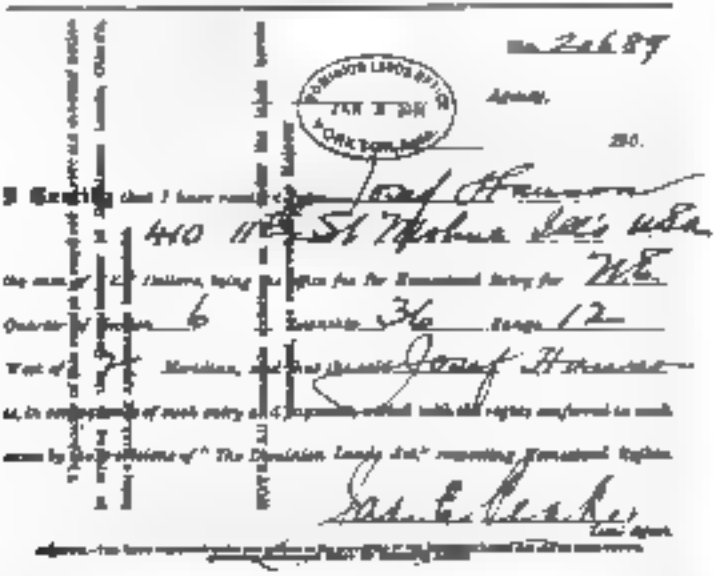
[illegible]

Josef Ganson arrived at Wha[illegible]

No. 187408

# DOMINION LANDS.

## RETURNS HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.



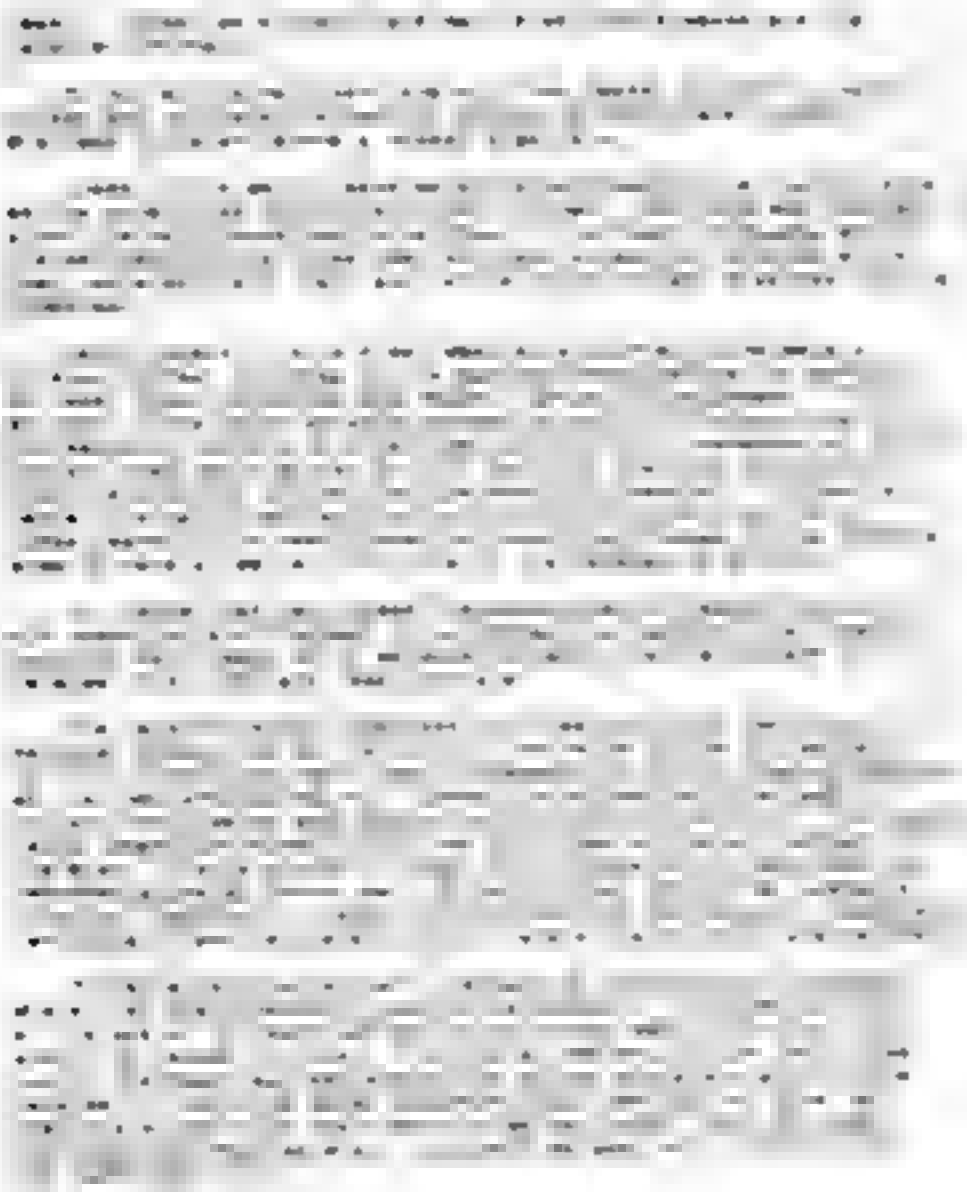
OLD RECEIPT. The receipt pictured above is one for $10.00 received by Josef Hanson for the Northwest Quarter of Section 6, Township 36, Range 12 West which he paid for his homestead quarter on January 3, 1906. Wonder what the same quarter is worth today?

free and which was advertised widely in the mid-west U.S.A. at that time. The vision of owning your own land and the independance that would flow therefrom was to be sorely tested many times before it became a reality.

Much hardship loneliness and privation instead awaited those early settlers as they struggled to clear and break small acreages each year on the homestead while trying to finance and build shelter for themselves and their livestock against the bitter cold of those early Winters.

Dad spoke of those early years and the trials and tribulations spent working with oxen. Mosquitoes were fierce and oxen with plow attached would leave the furrow and head for the nearest slough to get relief from the hordes of mosquitoes attacking both man and

The Joseph Hansen Family



statistics such as name, age,

early years at

here was also an ongoing comfort-

No one ventured to sit on the ice cold seat

Growing up at Ratnum

school straw

seemed like top speed all day long.

Mr & Mrs.
Joe Hanson

Mr & Mrs
Ian Hanson

DAD & MAY'S FAMILY submitted by Ellen and Esther

Fathers full name -- Carl Emil Hanson -- born in Helsingborg Sweden
May Child -- died [illegible] at Prince George

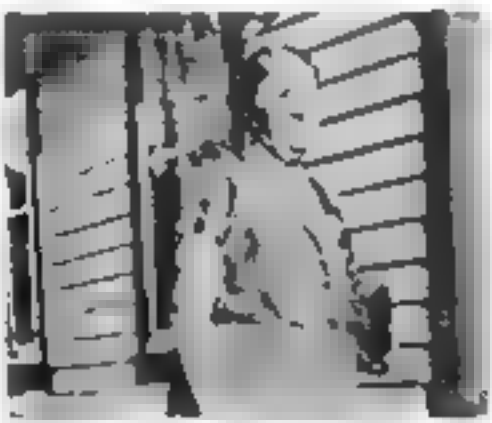
Mothers full name -- Anna Bernadina Nelson -- born in Ayom
Sweden Feb 1 1886 -- died Feb 21 1957

Children -- Esther Thompson of Prince George
Ellen Adams of Prince George
Arthur Hanson Deceased -- [illegible]

Dad came from Sweden in the early [illegible] and worked at various jobs in [illegible] and Mar went back to Sweden and got her mother back. He & Mom filed on a homestead [illegible] and were married in [illegible] and moved [illegible] they went to Denver Colorado where he worked in a mine for a short while and then returned [illegible] where he was road [illegible] When they retired to Hender [illegible] moved to Prince George, B C in 1961

Audrey Bernice Thomson is Ellen's daughter and she attended school [illegible] graduated from [illegible] and lives at Churchill Man

MRS HANSON by daughter Doris Proctor



Mrs Hanson

Mrs Jeannie Moore a young widow and her [illegible] old daughter came to Canada in 1906. Mrs Moore and a sister-in-law of Mr Hansen who had come to Toronto area the previous year persuaded them to come out to Canada and stay with them until they could get settled on their own, and so it was, they came to the Toronto area and [illegible] Ontario never knew her own grandparents as she thought of

Mr. & Mrs. Otter as her grandparents

as his homestead the NW¼-24-36-13

[redacted] -by Eva(Harrison) Irving

[redacted] in 1905 and the C.N.R. railway

[redacted]

around the lake.

[redacted]
nephew Keith Harrison.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]
blow and discourage the mosquitoes.
Frame house was built.

[redacted]
to care for typhoid victims in the [redacted]

[redacted]

Mr. Harrison and Family

Mr. Howard Harrison

Mr. William Harrison

Mrs. William Harrison

neighbors were few and far between the nearest town 10 miles away— post office one mile east along the lake at the home of Mr. Dan Harrison. It was known as Meadow Bank post office and situated on N E [illegible] - Sec [illegible] An [illegible]unction of two lakes known as Lakes 1 & 2 on early maps. There was no way to reach the post office except on foot. Mrs. Harrison decided during her [illegible] burn there that that summer would be the last in the location hence the move across the lake where greater acreage was in any case. Here the Harrison family grew up - Eva [illegible] Sylvia, Leonard and Keith) and where Keith and Leonard still live

The settlers at this time came from various places U.S.A., Scandenavia, Mennonites from Germany and some Ukraine. Possibly Scandinavians were in the majority at that time in this area

The roads were prairie trails around sloughs and across creeks - The Scandinavians adept with skis had a better means of winter travel than walking. There was always the danger of becoming lost as there were few landmarks.

As time went on oxen were purchased and they were faithful animals - being strong and able to pull trees and breaking plough. The settler had few tools - axe, hammer and saw.

As population increased and families grew up there was a need for schools. The Duck Creek School district was organized in the fall of 1900 and a school building was erected in time to hold school in 1909. The teacher, Miss Armstrong, came from Toronto.

Visiting among one's neighbors was only source of entertainment for a long time but eventually there were gatherings and people came many miles to picnics. The first Meadow Bank picnic was held

in 1909. Later there were Christmas concerts in the schools, parties and dances in the homes - music provided by violin, accordian or some one 'on the comb'.

The church also played a part in the development of the community - first services were held in Mr. Waddell's (bachelor home - NE 18-16-12). This is where Eva Harrison was baptised.

By 1916 a United Grain Growers organization was formed and they built a community Hall N.E ¼ Sec 20-16--12 which became known as MEADOW BANK HALL. This was centre for all future social events. This building was later moved to NW ¼ Sec 15-16-12 and continued in usefulness until 1967

The oxen binding on Harrison's Homestead

Submitted by Ruth(Harrison) Shannon

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1918 | Mrs. Robert Cowan | Duck Creek School | |
| 1919 | Miss Noel Blanc | Duck Creek School | |
| 1920 | Mrs. Eleanor McLean | Duck Creek School | Norma Massey & Marion Massey relief) |
| 1921 | | | |
| | Mrs Wm. McQuarie(Hazel) | Duck Creek | |
| 1922 | Miss Elizabeth Cameron | Duck Creek | |
| | Miss Helen Summerveld | Rotnum School | |
| | Miss Jean Ingram | Rotnum | |
| 1923 | Mr George Philbin | Duck Creek | |
| | Miss Mary Cherry | Rotnum | |
| 1924 | Miss Elsie Brice | Rotnum | |
| 1925 | Mr. Percy Heffern | Rotnum | |
| 1926 | Mr. Henry Lowen | Rotnum | |
| 1927 | | Kelvington High School | |

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Viola Bates was a quiet, gentle lady who was very young to take charge of a country school. She later [illegible] under surgery in Federal hospital. The two [illegible] arrived that fa... and Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] with Melvin joined our ranks.

Perry Harrison made a circle to [illegible] for the [illegible] His friend Harry James took over the [illegible] and made I. Then in grade "[illegible]" [illegible] for [illegible] and made I. Then last year Ethel Berglund did not want to [illegible] a test by electric

Submitted by Sylvia Hartwigsen (Harrison)

Many times at Harrison School we seem to revolve around the [illegible] to me [illegible] to get into [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] to do so [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Ethel Hoard  daughter of Mr  and Mrs. Russell Dann.

Russell was the son of Hugh Richard Dann and came to Saskatchewan from Ontario

He married Mabel Nease, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Nease, who lived four miles south of Radena on the land now farmed by Ken Jones.  The Nease family had come to the Radena area from Thorndale, Ontario.

Russell and Mabel along with his brother Guy took up farming on the S.E. quarter of Section 14 later coming to the Rotnum district where they farmed on N.W.¼ 17- 36-12.

There were six children in the Russell Dann family, the eldest being Ethel who attended Rotnum school in 1929, moving from the district in 1930.

The Dann's were noted for the nice horses they kept on the farm and it was a common sight to see Mrs. Dann driven to church by one of her brothers mowing a building past the school, being pulled by horses  each having a harness, had been built in Radena and moved out by horse power

Russell became ill and was unable to work for much of his latter years  passing away in Winnipeg on July 14th, 1930.

Mrs  Dann now age  resides in Thorndale, Ontario

Ethel married to Gordon Hoard and we live on the farm east of Radena

THE [illegible] FAMILY

Mr. & Mrs. Nels Rasmussen and family of two children came to the district by train with [illegible] settler's effects, horses, machinery and [illegible] which they had acquired after immigrating from Sweden in 1912

They built on a homestead (N.E. 2-36-12) three miles from the site of Rotnum School (not yet built)  They were among the first settlers in the district and were so very well  known, as any of the farmers  living at that time in the area had to haul their grain to Radena  and  have  along with horses the trip could not be made  one day or the  Rasmussen farm became the stop-off place for those tired and hungry travellers.

The Rasmussens first built a small house which they used as a granary after they built the big two storey log house in 1908.

Mr  Rasmussen and children did a lot of trapping as their land had several [illegible] and summer remember going with their dad in the early morning to trap and later keeping him skin the animals

Mr. & Mrs Mels Holsten Family

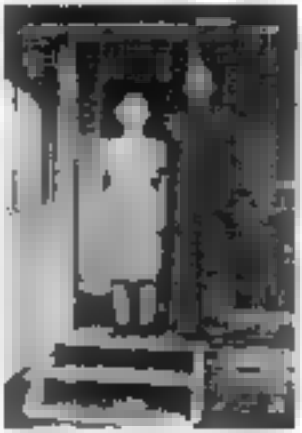
After the weary travelers had rested at the HOLSTEN farm, they are getting hitched again to travel further.

The children attended school in Victoria Park and Wolverton. The older ones remember carrying Bert occasionally because it was such a long walk. When the Rotnum School was built in 1922 Violet, Gunnar and Bert attended classes there. By then Dollie was big enough to stay home to work with her Dad doing Man's work, ploughing, harrowing, cutting and stacking great amounts of hay ,running the binder and then doing the milking and taking care of the "stoppers" horses.

When the railroad was extended further north, Mr. & Mrs. Holsten and family moved to Rose Valley in 1923, and opened a cafe there.

Bennie Evenson operated the farm for a short while until it was sold to Arton Faust. Later the same land was sold to N F Nelson. Farmer Nelson still lives on the same site

GEORGE HOPE & MAMIE FRAZER submitted by Evelyn Oliver



George Hope and Mamie Fraser were married Nov.2,1902, in Glengary Mamie was born Nov 9, 1903 in Ontario. They then moved to Marchwell,Sask. in 1904, where Lizzie was born May 21, 1905. Gordon was born Nov.25,1906.

They then moved to homestead on NE ¼ 16-15-12 in 1907. Cecil born in March 14, 1908, Kenneth March 14, 1916, Evelyn April, 12, 1919.

The main stopping place for pioneers that travel from Lintlaw and Kelvington to Wadena

Church service was held in the home. Mr. Hope was active in th[illegible] Growers and Farmers [illegible]. He helped organize the Marrow Glen School were Hazel and [illegible] were among the first students. He also helped organize the Moyerton Rural telephone company.

We raised purebred Aberdeen Cattle, Rhode Island Red Chickens and purebred Berkshire Hogs.

They sold the farm in 19[illegible] and retired in West Vancouver. Mrs. Hope passed away in July 19[illegible] and George in March 19[illegible].

Hazel became a teacher. Later married Herb Topping and farmed at [illegible]. They moved to [illegible] and adopted three children. Herb passed away Oct. 1[illegible].

Lizzie became a teacher. Later married James Wright and farmed [illegible]. Had a family of three. When they retired Hugh & Rod[illegible] ther[illegible] the farm and moved to Kelvington. Lizzie passed away Jan 19[illegible] Jimmy in [illegible].

Merril worked for M[illegible] Mining at Flin Flon. Passed away in New York [illegible] ev[illegible] had five children, two boys were among the five. Kenneth [illegible] was Mrs. Hazel's daughter in Delta B[illegible] and never married.

Evelyn married Bill [illegible] ver, they farmed in the Madena district and later moved to the town of Madena. Ther[illegible] to[illegible] Bill had four children. Bill passed away [illegible] 2. Evelyn and Hazel live together [illegible] prey[illegible].

Submitted By Gordon Hope.

We went to Willow Glen School. One summer there was not enough pupils to open [illegible] O'Keefe took over Lizzie and Merril and Ted and Ed[illegible] rest [illegible] a teacher was hired near Plenty. We went to school with a horse and cart, following a prairie trail across Sec. 1 and 11.

My father did carpenter work earlier. My father was Scotch and mother [illegible] French and Irish.

[illegible] moved from Meadow Bank No. 1. First of all we hauled gravel from [illegible] with a team and sleigh from NE 1 of 1 for the foundation. We raised the barn up and put two sets of skeids under it cross ways. My uncle James and I each had a four horse team on the hay and everything went along very well. A lot of the top was made down under the eave and there was about a foot and a half of straw to be [illegible] was set down [illegible] and left until Spring, to have the foundation put under it. I didn't take part at [illegible] the come [illegible]

Charlie came out from Scotland in the year 1921 and he story goes that while travelling by train near the town of [illegible], he asked the conductor what it was like there and the conductor replied "It's hot in summer, not bad in winter with fair crops but what the Hell are you going there for?"

His first job was at another good fellow Scotsman Sandy Donald. From there he went to work for Fred Perry's farm and spent one Winter with Tom Donald who was a [illegible] bachelor and a very good friend who owned a team of Percheron [illegible] and was a keen sheep-dog man and they used to go coon hunting a lot on the bad

Charlie then decided to buy some land so he purchased the SW¼ 26-36-12, still referred to as 26

At this time Fred Perry came back and he lived with Charlie and he was to make the Irving's his home for many years

The Pavilion farm came up for sale [illegible] As Mrs. Harrison was executor for the estate Charlie was to work at farming the farm and he was to have earned for it at the same time because he says he got it all in the same deal.

Eva was born on the homestead on the south side of Harrison's Lake and we call it [illegible] called Lakeside or Harris's or [illegible] Lake's area. [illegible] as it is now, [illegible] and the family moved to the north side of the lake

Eva, it is said, was only a year or two old when her father died and her mother had no known [illegible] was the first way to be employed in the meadow land area

[illegible] Mrs. Harrison and two daughter went back to England for a visit.

When it was time for Eva to start school she went to [illegible] Creek [illegible] was provided [illegible] over the span a year at [illegible] Eva's father died [illegible] there [illegible] after she [illegible] great ambition was to make good grades and marry Ira Harrison!

After some [illegible] school [illegible] Eva went to normal school [illegible] Prince George [illegible] each in the area [illegible] percent [illegible] were [illegible] and [illegible] were [illegible] and [illegible] and she did [illegible] on a new career. Marriage and she hasn't been out of a job since.

The wedding of Charlie Irving and Eva Harrison took place at her farm home on Aug. 21st, 1934. The weather was cold that year and crops and gardens were frozen.

They have a family of three children [illegible] and Brian at home [illegible] Eva and Charlie have retired [illegible] to stay in their [illegible] home on the farm [illegible] to their sons and their grandchildren.

The Charles Irving's

Allan and Gail.

Allan Irving Family

Allan is the eldest [illegible] In 1958 he went to kelv- [illegible] career

[illegible] Barbara Fennel of

[illegible] school of Optom- [illegible] this year and he [illegible] member of Nendon 4-H.

[illegible] plays the trombone [illegible] and also sings

[illegible] Hospital [illegible] High school and trai [illegible] and they reside in Saskatoon [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] of the Irving family taking all his sch [illegible] ended farming [illegible] months with [illegible] over winter.

It was while working in Tisdale, he met his future wife Ann [illegible] were married [illegible]

[illegible] their home on the Pigeon place, adjacent to Brian's parents and across the road from his brother Allan

[illegible] married the former Alice Whaley in [illegible]. She [illegible] where she was a dressmaker.

[illegible] and [illegible] Mr. Whaley came to the [illegible]

[illegible] Mr. [illegible] or writer. The Johns [illegible] in company with [illegible] settled on their homes and [illegible]. Bert filed on the SE ¼- 4-36-12

[illegible] trip was made by team and wagon, taking ten days to ripp via the trail.

Mrs. [illegible] was a little [illegible] of people. They [illegible] there and [illegible] in 1907, and retired in Dundee where [illegible] both passed away.

Frank Johns

Frank [illegible] was the son of Peter and [illegible]. They [illegible] on the [illegible] homestead [illegible] east of the Jim Messenger farm.

[illegible] and [illegible] Frank Johns in 1921 riding a big white horse named [illegible].

Later the family moved to Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jensen [illegible] and

Mr. and Mrs. Fred [illegible] the former Penny [illegible] rented for [illegible] a mile [illegible] Mr. [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] on the [illegible] and in 1919 worked for Cliff Lee's uncle, Mr. Bill Lee.

[illegible] purchased the homestead of Mr. Olaf Anderson. [illegible] and later [illegible] from Mr. [illegible] Penny.

[illegible] made further purchases of land from a Mr. Fred [illegible] who had [illegible] part of [illegible] from [illegible] and [illegible] worked as a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

remember the incident as it was storming and the roads were bad And Mr Wright old mother he would go on horseback and get Dr Stuart to come out ev l very. The storm got worse and Jim got lost on his way home and he was happy to see at last the light of our coal oil lantern as we were doing chores at the barn

I helped Dad with everything that had to be done around the farm and managed to get my schooling besides I remember writing my grade eight departmental exams The centre where we wrote was in Melvingo and had to go and sta at Mrs Garrison who was keeping other such students as well

The summer took two months off from farm work and went as a cooker to Mr Burgett's saw Mill at Round Lake My friend Eleanor Fuller became ill a bout as she so when I finished one job I went to help Eleanor's mother Mrs. Carrl remain-then home to help Dad with harvest and fall work It was in 1926 or 2

I stu ed one after at until I was married on Oct. 27 193 to Helmer Ta'as ord of Semo gh

Helmer and Connie setting out for the Whitten Ranch.

e er was foreman and I cooked for the ranch hands After spend a winter there we came back, Helmer taking over the field work for Dad living on the 1 1/2- 1.-36-12

Dad passed away in Nov 1940 and we came to live and care for Mother as she was not well, and we have lived here ever since.

I remember as a little girl mother dressing poultry. Dad never helped with this job, as he didn't know how to do it, however I learned her after school and on into the night, as it all had to be read and packed with the least delay so Dad could take the boxes o Dale & from where it was shipped to the T. Eaton Co. in Winnipeg, a h e returns from the Poultry our winters clothes and other needs were p d and a treat as a's gifts. I especially remember the p r ases of dried fruits prunes, apricots and apples which came in 15 l wooden boxes

We re en er other and Dad talking about a shipment that got

each holding 8 gallons and set top grade--the managers,

prairie trails

ame to town.

g tin heaters They referred to them in

Mr and Mrs. Joe Kinard

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

In later years Mr and Mrs Koch built a house in Kelvington and retired there. Mr Koch passed away in the Kelvington hospital on his 77 th birthday.

Otto Koch.

I was the son of George and Rose Koch who came from Govan to the Meadow Bank district and rented Charlie Barker section. My father farmed and did carpenter work

We children attended Duck Creek School while living in the district and I remember quite a few of my classmates, the Govans, the Harrison girls the Donalds, the Drummonds, the Bjerke children Sam Lancely and the Fred Jones children as well as Maggie Augustus

In 1944 I married Marie Smith and we have six children. Orvill David, Russell, Rose Marie and Jimmy They are all married and we have twelve grandchildren

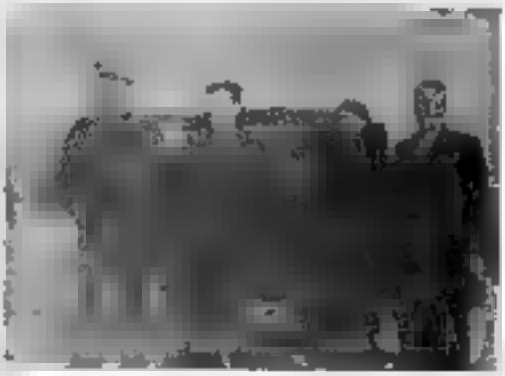
Matt Lang Family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang came to the Rotnum district and lived on the Carl Peters Ranch

They came to the area from Duff Sask. And both Mary and Matt Lang were of German descent. They had a family of five children. Gibert and Alvina both attended Rotnum School. Elmer, Wilmarie and Marlene were not old enough to go to school then but lived in the Rut Mountain area for most of their schooling.

What always will stay in my mind is when Elmer and I would ride over to Jank's and Gus would cut our hair And we would listen to some of Grandpa Mack's stories about the First World War and then the many hours spent riding horse back herding cattle and driving them to the Meadow Bank Lake for water.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lancely,



Mr. and Mrs. Lancely Sam and Albert

Mr. John Lancely was born in Cheshire, England. He came to Canada in April 1905. Settling at Cupar, Sask., Later moving to Churchbridge Sask. where he was married to Miss Mary Gibson, who came also from England.

In 1906 he came to the Meadow Bank district and filed on a homestead SW¼ 24-36 -12, Mr. and Mrs. Lancely were hardy pioniers and saw and enjoyed life to the full They had two sons, Albert an Sam .

Sam now has moved into Kelvington,where he has retired

Mr. Lancely, ever interested in education, served on the Duck Creek school board from 1910 to 1946 when the school was dissolved.

Mr. and Mrs. Lancely were pioneers in many respects, having the first radio in their community in the early days of 1914 and one of the first cars as well.

COPY OF FILE # 806367.

This was made out to Mr. Lancely of the [illegible] area Showing the requirements for receiving [illegible] Saskatchewan.

Mr. John Lancely Age [illegible]

Property

Livestock 1

Lumber Stable $ 40.00

Well $ 20 00

1911 1 cow . . . 2 oxen

12 x 24 . . . log and lumber house $300 00

1 mile wire fence $ 95.00

Saw lumber and well dug

Witnessed by Mr. John Cowan

1909 . broke 10 acres . . cropped 0

1910 . . . . broke 10 acres . cropped 10 acres

1911 . broke 15 acres . . . cropped 20 acres

December 1st, 1911. Finished house and moved in.

Submitted by Phyllis (Parish) Little

Phyllis Little has many pleasant memories when she was working at the Lanceleys'. In the spring of 1917 she recalls needing some help to do housecleaning. Mr. Lanceley suggested going to get Rosella Avery. Which she did. She took old Jean the pony, hooked it onto the buggy and proceeded on her way. She went through the Parish yard where her mother wanted to go along for the ride. It was the spring the water was high. They got to their destination and picked up Rosella. On their return home they had to cut off right by Fred Jones' corner where you go through the water. We got about 25 yards into the water and Jean decided she didn't want to pull so laid down. I got out

...ensed ... harness, ... she ... at ... refused to get up and get ... of the wa... decided ... to do and get ... across ... Ellie and ... fi... ed ... at ... was good ... play ... h she said ... Connie and ... ... saddle wi... a ... rope ... She d essed ... with ... she said ... led the rope ... the ... and got on Jean. She said "Now ... put the rope ... said down with Connie on her back.

... the time, my mother ... was working at ... ones' Connie and ... went and got ... off ... e ... and where ... was ... using four horses. ... ver ... with ... came ... t wit ... a ... r horse ... outfit and pulled us ... a ... ter a lo... of ... ay ... ... and ... er passe... gers proceeded on ... e wa... ... to La ... ...

... ... ... saw us coming ... e ... alley yard ... he very well ... knew ... and ... speeded ... as ... looked ... e a drowned ... and ... ... and I ... dream ... did ... t feel like doing ... ... cleaning

... Tansley was very active ... the ... ... Creek ... board, ... where ... ser... ed ... for ... years ... e was ... ... of ... ... dre... ... en ... we ... ed ... ave ... ... ...

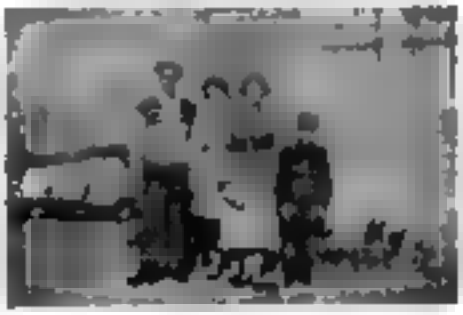
at any job that was available, mainly a farm labourer.

In 1914 he married Leona Pawlowski who was born at Lynyard and had spent her life and years working as a [illegible] ing area. After their marriage they moved on the meadow [illegible] and took up farming on land located [illegible] School and 4 miles East of Rose Bench. In the fall of 1923 a daughter Muriel was born.

In the winter of 1942 due to the hard times the family left the farm and went to Harrot River where both Father and Ed worked in a sawmill owned by [illegible] Father had run a steam engine and Mother worked as a camp cook.

In the spring they again returned to the farm and that fall a son Robert was born.

At this time the family lived in a two room shack. One year Dad being very artistic whipped up a tub of wood ashes, lime and water and over plaster was a plaster and wire on the inside



[illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] started school [illegible] Creek [illegible] Miss Frances [illegible] and went there [illegible] this picture was [illegible] I believe [illegible] school pressed [illegible] mor a bar [illegible] a wir er she [illegible] mont s bena se [illegible]

[illegible] was [illegible] and bikes in the summer

[illegible] spend a wi [illegible] and [illegible]

[illegible] they sold [illegible] still reside.

Muriel married [illegible] they have lived at the [illegible] 2 [illegible] is a [illegible] one [illegible]

Robert married [illegible] went [illegible] family of [illegible] plumbing business [illegible]

Stanley Larson

Son of Mr and Mrs John Larson, who lived on NE ¼-7-36-12, for a short time Stanley attended Rotrum School for only a short time in his first year at school. He was a cousin of Roy and Clifford Rotrum.

Stanley worked for some years in Kelvington at the garage owned by Wayn Lowey He was a mechanic of some fame and people sought his services.

Mr and Mrs Leonard Leepart

We came to the Dunk Creek district the year of 1931 and farmed on the E½ of 24-36-12 east and east from the school. We left the district for a year returning the fall of 1935 and remained for a short time until December 1935 Then we came to the Rotrum school district with our family of two Earl and Eileen and located on the S W ¼ of 6-36-12, where we still remain. From 1941 to 1946 Faye, Nola, Ellery, and Derold joined our family tree.

Our family of six received all their public school education at Rotrum

Submitted by Nola Doreen Hiebert.
Leepart!

Earl, Eileen, Faye, Lorne
Derold
Mr. and Mrs Leepart.

I never did like school, and I sure remember the first day of school Mr Farquart sent grade I to the board and I was so sorry I started to cry so he asked me what I wanted to do. I very shyly said " Go out and play" I couldn't say play The school kids all laughed as I went out to that school yard was about the biggest and longest place in the whole world I hated school ever since

I guess my first and bad experience marked me for the following years, sure is funny isn't it? We played a lot of soft ball in all kinds of weather and and competed with neighbouring schools.

The sports field day was always something to look forward to Everyone was usually packed in to the back of someones pickup and drove to Wadena I'm sure the Caragana bushes around the school could tell many many stories . if they could only talk

Submitted by Ellery Lorne Leepart

It was way back in 1950 that I was introduced to the Rotrum School were I served my sentence.

It is a wonder I grew up to be an adult

and Dew Leitch.

until the final closeing of school.

Submitted by Vera Peterson

[illegible] moved to Wadena

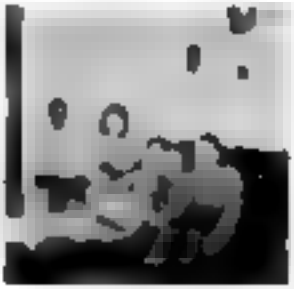
[illegible] yearly Christmas Co[illegible]
The songs to sing,

[illegible] fun times were in practice
[illegible] ncert night when the

sole leaf with

n an children living

Married Mary Bannia in December



always take you home

want to use a doll. They took me, but I didn't have to go to practice.

All the children went to dances and parties. When we got tired we were put to sleep on coats on the stage with the music. Meadow Bank had rooms in the kitchen made for children to sleep in.

I started school with Wilf Harcourt as the teacher. We had school concerts in Hendon Park every year. All the country schools in Hendon took part in it.

I was in the 4-H Beef Club. When calving was finished we led our calves to the stock yards and went home. When the train came our calves were shipped to Carnegie. We had nothing to show for our calves but a ribbon or a pail the calves ate in the mail.

After I finished school, I helped on the farm and am still farming.

Submitted by Allan Leitch

I was born March 12, 1949 and went to school at Putnam. I took part in School concerts, Field tests, ball games, Christmas concerts, Hendon 4-H Calf club.

We had chores to do after school and in the winter time cattle and horses to feed, wood to carry. In summer milk cows to get home then turn the separator and feed calves. After I finished school I helped with farming. One winter I spent in a bush camp at Port George. In 1965 I had bought the S½ of 8 from Pop Davis for $6500. In 1970 I moved there to farm and now am married and have two children.

Submitted by Dianne Leitch

I was born on October 15th, 1965 at Adelaide Hospital, the first daughter of Ken and Mar Leitch. I started school in Putnam on September 1970 with Mr. Alfred Harcourt as teacher. Starting school with me that year was Bonnie Cook, Raymond Leitch and Harold Messenger.

I have many memories of those good old school days when playing, learning and other things as well.

When I was in Grade one and having trouble reading out loud to the class Mr. Harcourt finally got fed up and asked me where were my pearls? I calmly told him they were in my stomach. After he got me settled with me. If I didn't learn to read in that first year at school, I got some good music training in dancing. The oldest girls in the school Joan Evenson and Eileen Leppard and maybe more, spent their noon hours dancing to the radio and very few records. I was one little girl that was glad when they asked me to dance with them and still enjoy dancing.

One thing I enjoyed about the old one room school was that

any profit that was made was divided

[illegible]
I dri [illegible]

[illegible] attending school in Kelvington.

Submitted by Beverly Lee (Leitch)

[illegible]
Leitch for a teacher and for the final [illegible]

I have many good memories about my school in [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Mr. and Mrs Seymour Leitch

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

children, Linda, Cindy and Douglas.

He and [illegible] was born in Sjul and went to Rotsen School also. He worked for an [illegible] and at the Arctic Circle Market and then went to [illegible] company. He came back to Sweden and worked for the Federal [illegible] and married Ebba Svensson of Sweden, they moved to Tarsora where he worked on the [illegible] project and was transferred to Regina. He now moved back to Sweden and is farming with his Dad, they have 2 boys Anders and Peter.

Mr. and Mrs Olof Linden

Mr. Linden [illegible] his wife Esther and small son Carsten Uven came to Canada from Sweden [illegible] of 1951. They lived for a while with Mr. and Mrs. [illegible] who had come out earlier and homesteaded [illegible]

The Linden started farming on [illegible] and [illegible] had to haul water for the stock [illegible] as it was a long way. There they [illegible] Working in bush camps [illegible] road to support [illegible] could [illegible] camps were [illegible] work was heavy and wages one dollar a day.

[illegible] camps were often long. There were [illegible] days, [illegible] worked hard [illegible] prospered.

In [illegible] tired of [illegible] water, they purchased [illegible] 2 crops [illegible] comparison [illegible] proved good even if there [illegible] was very [illegible] Olof drove to [illegible] horses to sell [illegible] and to buy the provisions [illegible] rode [illegible] and [illegible] with [illegible] team.

[illegible] and over [illegible] Olof carried provisions [illegible] a distance of [illegible] also carried [illegible] Later [illegible] years went by as Mr. [illegible] to [illegible] disappearance [illegible] of 1971.

[illegible] had always wanted and dreamed of having a [illegible] girl. [illegible] was [illegible] It was a [illegible] was [illegible] and saddled [illegible] named [illegible] and [illegible] assigned [illegible] had [illegible] camp, [illegible] dressed and [illegible] went outside, managed [illegible] dress off and [illegible] naked [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] were a few more of [illegible] wear parts

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

locoes hay. Luckily no fire resulted.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

1027

[redacted] playing cards. There were dances

[redacted] Ladies--free, but please bring lunch.

One day young Harry was treed by a mad bull. He stayed up there, the bull at the bottom bellowing, hunting and pawing until Glen Meade came on horseback and using a bullwhip drove the animal away. Next day the bull went to market.

Harry finished school at Duck Creek in June of 1935, he stayed out for one year then quit Madena high schoold in June, 1937. That was a happy day.

He stayed at Scott Branscombes. They were real nice people. He will never forget their many acts of kindness.

Tom Parish worked at Lindens for many falls until he got smashed up by a Massey One day while threshing flax at A F. Andersons farm, he accidently pitched a sheepskin lined coat into the feeder. Tom is ever more that coat again. Some other local boys who worked at the outfit were Bob Laidlaw, Ted Avery, Clarence Beckstrand, Oscar Burke and Percie Leopart.

Olof Linden passed away Jan., 1949 age of Mrs. Linden passed awa, Dec. 21, age 91

Harry married Phyllis Lockie, 1948. In 1951 they built on 22-36-12 and lived happily ever after.

## Mr. and Mrs Edgar Lindsay

(Written from Dorothy Lindsay)

I attended Duck Creek School in the spring of 1931 and finished Grade 8 and took correspondence for Grade 9 at school here. Grade 8 in all was the last year to have to write governmental exams. Dorothy Beaver and I were to write our exams

Mr. Beaver and other were farmers at Meadowbank and were for many years. They came from a homestead south of Craven Saskatchewan. Her maiden name was Mary Beaver and other were of Scottish English and some Irish origin.

I went to the dances in the Meadowbank Hall and had wonderful times there, made many wonderful memories there. Phyllis Parish and I were co-leaders of 4-H and Eva Harrison was our leader. We had many good times there, we also used to go to church on Sundays in the Meadowbank Hall.

We only lived about 2 years at Meadowbank, and then we lived directly across the mountain, then bought a farm at Lintlaw and from there left for [illegible] 1935.

## THE FORMATION OF DUCK CREEK SCHOOL

There were quite a number of children in the area east of Meadow Bank Hall and parents were beginning to see the need for a school in which to educate their children. So it was that the Jones Homes who had a large family and the Ian Morrisons became involved in organizing a school district in 1909.

Mr. Tiplen was one of the first board members and Jack Lowan the first secretary of the new school district.

It was to be located in the Rural Municipality #336. The proposed site for the new school was the W ½ - 14 - 26 - 12. They chose this parcel of land even if it was in a part of no early and because it would be central for the children concerned. Mr. Jones donated the land because that because he had the most children, it would definetly be to his advantage.

They were given permission to build a structure 20 x 28 ft. with four windows on the 28 ft. side and the door on the 20 ft. side, with a window on each side of it.

The men of the neighborhood all pitched in to help build the school with Ian Morrison and Jeff Linden, and Lower Ike as supervising carpenter we believe.

The school was ready for occupancy on July 4th of 1909 with 11 children as beginners.

The name chosen for the new school was very original. A creek ran through the property and in the summer was always filled with ducks, hence the name DUCK CREEK

# Duck Creek #2002

Miss Lizzie Lawrence was the first teacher on record in the [illegible] Creek School. She taught in the year 1909 and had eleven pupils. Miss Lawrence had come out from Toronto College and boarded at Will Harrison's. As she had to walk to school Mr. Harrison built a bridge of poplar poles for her to cross the creeks.

Miss Armstrong came out from Toronto College to teach at the Duck Creek School in 1910. She boarded at the Jack Cooper's.

Thelma E. Bell taught at Duck Creek in 1911.

In 1912 Myrtle Branscombe wife of Scott Branscombe, came to teach at Duck Creek. Salaries were not high, but it seemed to be a good fortune as compared to the salary she had received in New Brunswick. She found her pupils dear and in greeting group after group of her daughter who met as a race names except for that of the Hansons. She presumed at that her mother left teaching there in that year because of being pregnant with her first child but later returned to teach there when teachers were in short supply in 1918.

In 1913 Maurice Sanger came to teach at Duck Creek. He was a Duck Creek [illegible] Presently Branch Plumbing. He boarded at the Harrison's. The story is told about the bridge over the creeks being undermined by a few of the pranksters in the school and one morning the supports gave way, dumping Mr. Sanger in the creek. He was in Regina at the time of the [illegible] but he professed he had a spot right through the storm and when asked what he knew of the storm, he replied he thought it was only a heavy dew overnight.

Violet Cameron came to teach Duck Creek taking over from Maurice Sanger in October of 1913.

Jean Kerr taught at Duck Creek in 1914.

W. T. Jones taught Duck Creek in 1915. He is remembered as an orderly and [illegible] experience. Esther Branscombe came to complete this term.

Goldie May Freeman came to teach at Duck Creek in 1915. He boarded with Mr and Mrs Harrison and drove to school, taking the Harrisons daughter, Eva with him as she was ready to start school.

Esther Scott came to teach at Duck Creek in 1917. She boarded at Harrison's In later years she married Pat Mandran and they presently reside in the Kelvington district

Gertrude Gowan, wife of Jack Gowan taught at her home school, Duck Creek part of the year 1918

In the latter part of 1918, Jeanne Blang came to teach Duck Creek She boarded at the Harrison home.

Eleanor McLean was a sister of Mrs. Massey wife of Inspector Massey She taught Duck Creek from 1919-1920 and boarded at the John Dehmidt home and went to school driving Albert Lancely's horse and Smithe top buggy. Later she boarded at the Harrison home.

Mrs. Hazel McQuarrie had been teaching school at Kelvington and came to teach school at Duck Creek in 1921 She was the wife of Andy McQuarrie whose home place is now farmed by Mitch Gavron. She drove daily from their farm home just a mile south of the town of Kelvington to Duck Creek and if weather was bad she stayed at the Fred Jones home.

Following Hazel McQuarries period of teaching, George Philbin, a French Canadian gentleman came from Quebec. He had friends west of Wadena by the name of MacLean. He had taught part of the year in Duck Creek in 1921 and then again in 1923-24.

Elizabeth Cameron, a Wadena girl, whose father was a grain buyer in Wadena, came to teach at Duck Creek in 1922. She later passed away at an early age following surgery.

Percy Heffern was the son of Mr. and Mrs John A. Heffern of Kelvington They operated a general store and the post office and also hauled mail from Wadena to Perigord in those years.

Doris Frouse recalls her stepfather, Ed Marcon being

hired by the Heffernans, one year to haul the mail over this route.

Perry, one of a family of eight children, attended Normal School and taught at both Rotrun and Duck Creek. He taught Duck Creek in 1926 when Mr Jones, gave up his mail business and left Kearington. Perry took over, later going to Procupine where he operated a store for a time.

He married Florence Duplessis of Perigord. Perry had been a very valued employee of AIR CANADA in Toronto and had reached retirement when, when he passed away. Mrs. Heffern still lives on in Toronto.

E. A. McLellan came to teach Duck Creek in 1926-1927 for part of the term. She boarded at Fegolin's then later at Cliff Linden's

Mrs Edith Palm came to teach taking over duties from Mr. McLellan. She was the wife of August Palm. They had two sons, Roland and Kenneth. After teaching school at Duck Creek in 192 she moved to Waverton to teach. There was now a teacherage at Duck Creek so the family was able to live there

W. J. MacKenzie taught at Duck Creek in 1928-29 for part of the term. Mona Donald Bisnett remembers him as an elderly man who was her first teacher.

Mona McKay, whose father was an early settler and rancher in the Kelvington District came to teach at Duck Creek from 1929 to 31 May of 1934. She lived in the teacherage in Pete McInnis yard. When she left Duck Creek she went to Foam Lake for a month of teaching. She later married Paul Gillis and went to Flin Flon where she still lives.

Eva M. Harrison, a local girl replaced Mona McKay for the month of June in 1934. She had taught at various schools until she married Charles Irving in Aug 1934.

Martin Pordsen was a married middle aged man who came from Hazel Dell to teach in Duck Creek from 1934 to 1936 They lived in the teacherage and always drove their horse Daisy hitched to the buggy Later they retired in B. C.

[illegible]

[illegible]

write up in the Retnum story.

[illegible]

years ago, Duck Cree[illegible]
Inevitably the dream progres[illegible]
[illegible]
up and decide to sta[illegible]

[illegible] their homes to me and [illegible]
me, a novice teacher.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] and went back and forth with Jean and Stuart.

[illegible] shyness or stage fright.

[illegible] the chill out of it

[illegible] at the Donald's Malibu.

[illegible] ing into transition [illegible] my successes. I sang [illegible]

I recall an air-
n the value of

getten. A roumant
string of invectiv

pay cheque!

ceme to teach Duck Creek, her first
of 1846. She recal

Frances Guest, daughter of Ina and the late John Guest of Wadena, spent a full year teaching Duck Creek in 1945-46. She boarded at McInnes's and also at Avery's.
Frances is married to Mr. Ernest Hage, they live at Archerwill.

Marjorie Allen, she was born in 1903 at Glenboro, Man. to Dr. and Mrs. H.T.Whaley. She married Herman Allen at Bateman, Sask. In Dec. 1926. She taught the 1946-47 term at Duck Creek.

Miss Nora Churchill, came to Kelvington from Invermay and taught Duck Creek School in 1947-48 Upon leaving teaching she became involved with work in the Pentecostal Church.

Mr. Angus McDonald, was a married man with much experience and came to teach Duck Creek in 1948-49, the last term the school was in operation

Mr. Massey

Norman Massey was school inspector in the area from 1918-1930 He served an area of some 50 miles, so his home was centrally located in the town of Wadena and the family home was the large house on the lot cornering 2nd street which in later years was the home and office of Dr. Fred Jones. His inspection area included both the Rotnus and Duck Creek Schools.

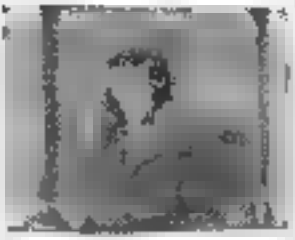
Mr. Massey was a very friendly but quiet person and a dedicated church worker being a member of the United Church.

He had a family of six children so made good use of his large tennis court(located on the present site of the Del Narfason home) and the Massey home was always "open house".

In the early years he travelled by horse and buggy on his tours of inspection, opening and closing numerous gates, as the prairie trails of those days, usually wound across country and livestock had to be kept inside the fence. As roads improved, he was able to travel by MODEL 'T' car.

Miss Joanne Elgar

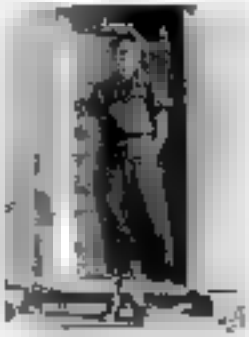
Mrs. Edith Falk



Miss. Mona McKay

Miss Joyce Haynes

Mr. Martin Bordson



Miss. Amy Ekcelson

Miss. Betty Alwood

Miss. Frances Guest

Mr Don Leitch

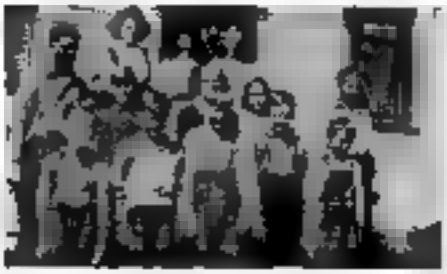
Last day of school Dec.19,1919. Back row; Orion Gowan, Lizzie Hope, Phyllis Gowan, Olive Gowan, Ruth Harrison, Eva Harrison. Front row; Gordon Hope, Sexton Linden, Carrie Hope, Albert Lanclay.

Back row; Howard McGinnis, Teddy Avery, Miss Donald, teacher Miss. Amy Eskelson, Rosalie Avery. Center row. Frances Wright, Jean Donald, Shirley Wright, Dennis Prybi ski Front row; Gerald Schmidt, Ruby Avery, Tommy Moore, Amos Avery, Jimmy Wright, Verna McGinnis.

1920 back row; Orion Gowan, Caroline Koch, 2nd row; Olive Gowan, May Fuller, Ruth Harrison, Katherine Messenger. Front row; Margret Gowan, Eleanor Fuller, Phyllis Gowan.

Class of 26 when Mr Henry Lowen was the teacher. Back row; Eleanor Fuller, Phyllis Gowan, Caroline Koch, Van Gowan, Ora Fuller, Percy Gowan. Front row, Rena Donald, Edith Koch, Connie Jones, Ken Donald, Ernest Koch, Otto Koch, Sam Lanclay, Albert Lanclay.

1919 back row Rose Ahl, Sirten Linden Orion Gowan. Front row; Ruth Harrison Eva Harrison, Albert Lanclay.

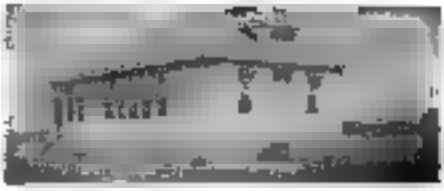


Duck Creek pupils of '42 or '43
Back row; Donald McGinnis, Frances Wright, Shirley Wright, Jean Donald. Center row; Amos Avery, Verna McGinnis, Ruby Avery, Dennis Prybilski Front row; Lloyd McGinnis, Jimmy Wright, Stewart Donald, Clifford McGinnis, Glen Lowndes.

Back row; Frances Wright, Shirley Wright, Ruby Avery, Verna Smith, Verna McGinnis. In front of Vera Smith is Miss. Betty Aylwood teacher Center row; Clifford McGinnis, Stewart Donald, Amos Avery. Front row; Alan Irving, Lloyd McGinnis, Jimmy McGinnis, Glen Lowndes.

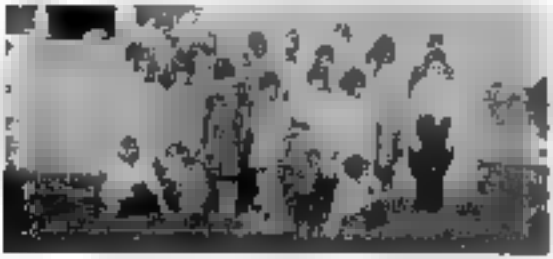
Fun and games were for all ages in all small country schools at any time. These pictures were taken at a Botnam School Picnic, who do you recognize?

Back row, Ethel Bergland, Ellen Hanson, Clifford Rotnum, Art Hanson.

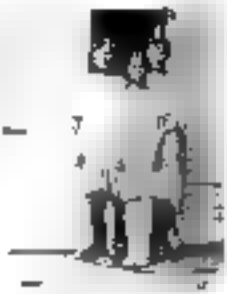


Rotnum School
No. 434?
Sec. 18-36-12

Front row, Leslie Garrison, Leonard Garrison, Selma Soderquist, Roy Rotnum, Dorothy Evans, Gwen Evans, Ruth Garrison, James Hanson, Hagne Carlson, Cliff Rotnum, Hans Hanson, Johnnie Evans.



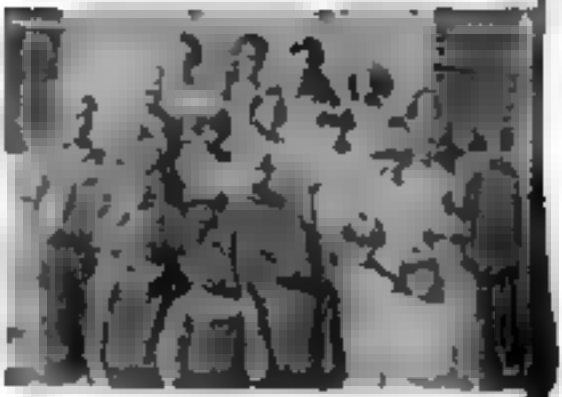
Back row, Charlie Spencer, Alf Twiedt, Mary Evans, Myrtle Torgeson, Lennon Hanson, Gwen Evans, Martin Ostlie. Middle row; , Mable Scrametad, Mable Garrison, Leslie Garrison. Next row. Leonard Garrison, Roy Rotnum, Mae Scrametad, Sylvia Harrison, Dorothy Evans, Adrian Torgerson, , Edith Hanson, Anna Scrametad Sitting, John Hanson, Bennie Twiedt, Melvin Twiedt, Sonny Evans.



Ethel Bergland
Ruth Harrison
Ellen Hanson

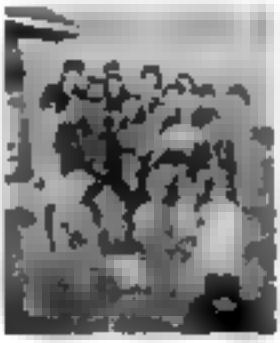
Rotnum pyramids were fun when Charlie Spencer was the teacher and for many years after

'27, back row; Alfred Twaidt, Ethel Bergland, Alma Hanson, 2nd row; Roy Botnum Jean Evans, Hazle Scrumstad, Olga Scrumstad, Martin Ostrem, 3rd row, Lesale Garrison, Edith Hanson, Alma Scrumstad, Dorothy Evans, Hazle Garrison, William Torgerson, Alvin Harrison. Standing in front, Mac Scrumstad & Leonard Harrison, Sitting Sammy Evans, John Hanson, Mary Twaidt, Ben Twaidt.

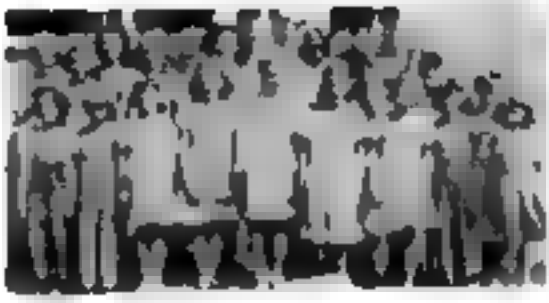


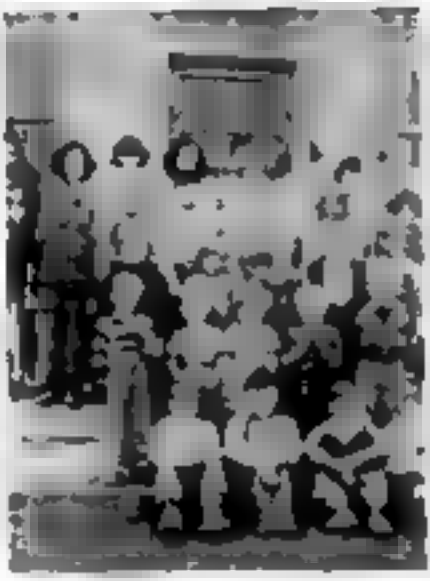
'49's back row; Edith Hanson, Alvin Harrison, , 2nd row Ben Twaidt, John Hanson, Alma Ostrem, Alma Scrumstad, Ethel Schau 3rd row, Orville Erland, Martha Hanson, Arlo McNab, Elsie Mack, Elsie Schau, Margret Evenson, Agnes Erland, 4th row Edith Harrison, Norman Schau, Val at Christianson, Oscar Schau Bottom row, Don Twaidt, Eric Mack, Verner Hanson, Barbara Schau, Frances Torgerson, Lorraine Mathews.

Botnum '49's, back Lillian Torgerson, Alvin Harrison, Eve yn Sunde, Margret Peterson, Sandra Abbe 3rd row Ma e Peterson, Melvin Twaidt, Roy Botnum, Bennie Twaidt, John Hanson, Ben Twaidt, 3rd row, Lavina Abbe, Ethel Schau, Edith Hanson, Alma Scrumstad, Alma Ost 4th row, Elmer Schau, Martha Hanson, Esther Schau, Frances Torgerson.



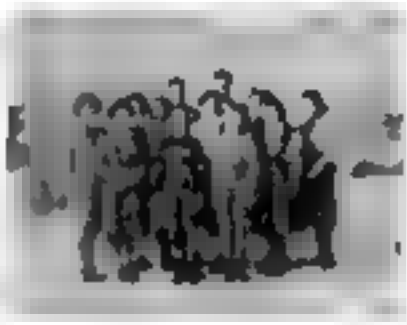
Class of '[illegible] back row Lillian McCowan Don Twaidt Dave Austring, Steven Evenson 2nd row Jessie Stearns, Joyce Allen, Jane Austring, Raymond Austring, Evangeline Mathys 3rd row Gordon Mack, Mar [illegible], George Schau, Walter Schau, Jesse Austring Norma Mack Norman Evenson. Seated Nordie Strastrom, Jean Evenson, Sigfrid Mack, Corlene Peters, Ray Schau, Lloyd Schau, Elaine Leopart, Marion Allen.





[illegible], back row: Noreen Mark, J[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], Lloyd Leopart, [illegible] Mark, Jean Erickson, Lara Leopart, [illegible] [illegible] Norman Dickens, [illegible] [illegible] Mark, Wayne [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible], Front Row: [illegible] Mark, Faye Leopart, Carol Schmeisser, Ida Messenger, Margret Mahlum, Irene Schau, Orvon Schau, Edith Leitch, Shirley Austerhaug.

Valentine party [illegible], back row, Phil [illegible] [illegible], Norman Mack, Faye Leopart, [illegible] [illegible], Albert Leitch, Mr. Leopart, Dianne Leitch, Norman Stramer, [illegible] row, Harriet Gutek, Raymond Gutek, [illegible] Leitch, Mary Truett, Arlene Schau, Ma[illegible] Messenger, Phil [illegible], Donna Twiet, Beverly Cal[illegible], Brian Lawrence, Gary [illegible], Darrell Leopart, Phyllis [illegible], Jean Marie Carmen Twiet, Dave [illegible], Mr. [illegible], Curtis Anderson, Bradley [illegible], Britt[illegible], Robert Gruber, Darrid Messenger, Donna Bates, Raymond Leitch.

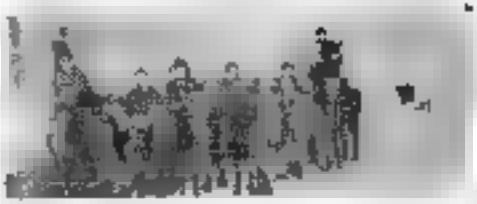


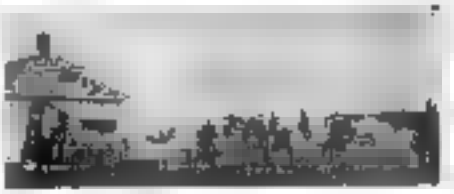
Grade [illegible] Mrs. [illegible], back; Harriet Messenger, Nora Leopart, Diane Schau, Bernard Leitch, Albert Leitch, Mario Mahlum, Dianne Leitch, Center: Robert Ladybee, Marie [illegible] Schmeisser, Donna Gutek, Raymond Leitch, Elmer Leopart, Debbie Mae Schmeisser, Front: Raymond Duran, Mary Twiet, Arlene Schau, Marlene Messenger.

Grade 5 and up, [illegible], back: Marie Ladybee, Sherry Austberg, Margret Mahlum, Carol Schmeisser, Elmer Austberg, Edna Leitch, Wayne Schmeisser, Jean Pickstrom, Front: Phillip Gutek, Faye Leopart, Norah Schau, Irene Schau.

## HOW DID WE GO TO SCHOOL?

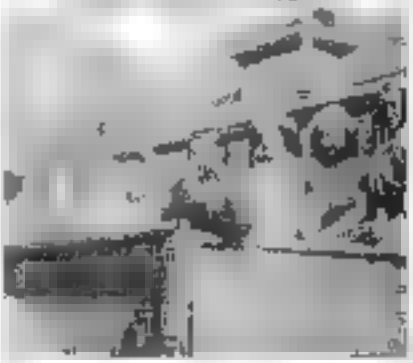
On skis, Don Tweidt, Verner Nelson & Norman Austring.





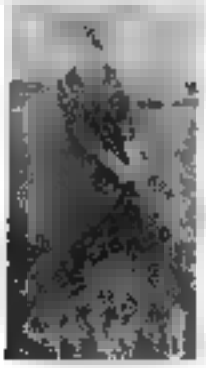
The horses were used in various ways. Can you name the students and the horses?

If Verner Nelson's arms got tired he would find help.



Vladim Amos, Mrs Amos & Lavine Amos with their dog pulling the toboggan.

Track and Field Day at Meadow Bank 1953. Wayne Boramstad, Philip Gutek, Milo Mahlum, Nolm Loepert, Alice Hagan, Faye Loepert

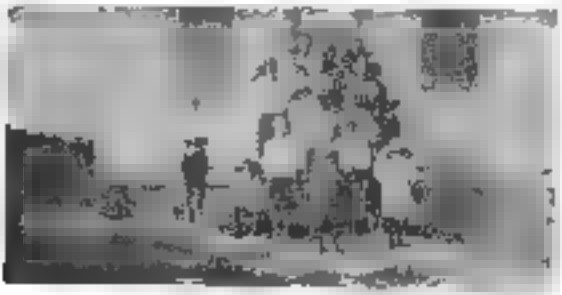


Miss. Jean Ingram

Miss. Mary Cherry

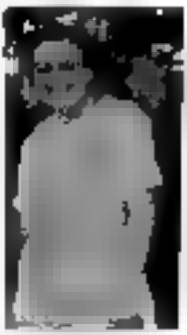
Miss. Elsie Brice

Miss. Gladys Burnett



Back row; together Mr. Percy Haffrum, Art Hanson, Johnnie Evans, second row; unknown Mabel Tweidt, Magna Carson, Mary Evans, Gwen Evans, Alf Tweidt, unknown third row; Ruth Harrison, Sylvia Harrison, Dorothy Evans, Mabel Garrison, first row; Sammy Evans, Roy Botnum, Leslie Garrison, Leonard Harrison, front row, Edith and John Hanson, Clifford Botnum standing by window.

Mr. Charlie Spencer



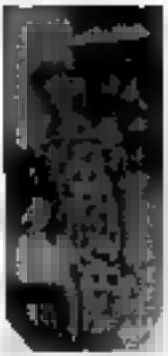
Miss. Oneeta Bryant

Miss. Ethel Dalshaug

Miss Mabel Lundstrom

Miss. Ann Nicholson

Miss. Mary Kinzel



Miss. Florence Lovid

Mr. Wilfred Harcourt

Miss. Pearl Wasylak

Miss. Marjorie Nygaard

Mr. Frank McGregor

Mrs. Mary Gutek

Mr. Lloyd Nelson

# Rotnum #4347

Rotnum school opened its doors for the first time in the fall of 1927 with Miss Somerfield [illegible] of Saskatoon serving as teacher for two months. In later years she married a lumber yard operator from Kerrington.

In that same year Jean Ingram of Quill Lake took over from Miss Somerfield and completed the term. Later she became the wife of Mr. Riley, whom she met when he was principal of Watson school.

They had one son and by then were both teaching near Quill Lake. One Friday evening Mr. Riley went to pick up his wife and family after the days work and at a railroad crossing near Quill Lake their car was struck by an oncoming train, taking the lives of the entire family.

Jean had a brother Bryce who still resides in Quill Lake.

Bob Cameron of Watson and a brother of Elizabeth Cameron, who taught at Duck Creek, came to open the school in the spring of 1929. He had not had any teachers training but taught under a permit granted him by Inspector Massey.

In the summer of 1929 after Mr. Cameron left Rotnum Miss Cherry of Lewvis, Saskatchewan came to complete the term.

Miss Elsie Price came to teach at Rotnum in March of 1924 at the age of 18 years. Her parents farmed just on the southern outskirts of Wadena. She boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Watson who lived on the SE 4 11-36-3 about 4 of a mile from the school. Her pupils ranged in age from 5 to 17 years and grades were from 1 to VIII.

Her sister, Betty remembers vividly the cold, cold winter and that she came out to help Elsie prepare for her first Christmas concert at Rotnum. This was to be a day of practising but Mr. Watson found after driving them both to the school by team and sleigh that the school house was so cold, it was impossible to have the children change into their costumes for practise so he ended up taking all the school children and the teacher back to his house for their practise.

Betty also remembers her father then coming to take them both back to Wadena for the Christmas holidays a drive of some 24 or 25 miles by team, but luxury of luxuries he was driving the team on a cutter sled which in later years became the fashionable mode of winter travel.

Sad to say, Elsie passed away November 1st, 1930, following surgery.

In February of 1925 Percy Heffern took over as teacher coming from Invington where his parents were in business. Percy also taught at Duck Creek school.

In 1926 Henry Jones from Theta came to teach at Rotrun No and Percy Heffern were great [illegible] on and part of the time they lived together in [illegible] each going to his respective [illegible] the remainder of the time each boarded at the Jay Garrison home. It is presumed they did not always walk to their school, as they owned a bicycle each.

Gladys Burnett taught at Rotrun School from the 1927-28 term, having taught at Illana the previous year. Her home had been at Duck Lake where she received her education.

After leaving Normal School she had been the first teacher at Kingscourt a few, north of Duck Lake, returning there to teach a second term later in her career.

She boarded at the Garrison home and recalls well the horse, "Beauty" the colt, used to drive [illegible] to and from their [illegible] of means of transportation on [illegible] and Mrs. Garrison she recalls took off with said Beauty and the buggy on a [illegible] trip, bound for Hendon one Saturday in late fall. Their mission was to purchase goodies for the coming Hallowe'en party at the school.

Gladys was a slender dark attractive looking lady and I [illegible] admiration [illegible] thinking it's love to look as fetching as she did when she donned a beautiful long sleeved red silk dress with rows of gathering at the cuffs & neck. Memories are beautiful!

So it is no surprise that eventually this lovely lady changed her name to Gladys Moore.

In 1928 she went to Meadow Lake to teach for six months in the Matches district. Forty two years later she is still there living in a senior citizens home and enjoying her retirement.

In February 1928 a young chap from Prince Albert by the name of Percy Spencer, came to take over the teaching duties at Rotrun.

Pleasant Thoughts of Rotrun - Chas. Spencer, Surrey, B.C.

In early February 1928, I received a phone call from Jessie Mahlum that my application for the position of teacher in Rotrun school had been accepted. Since my home was in Prince Albert he also told me that I should come to Hendon on an afternoon train from Tisdale, I would be met at the station and taken to my board[illegible] place on Saturday afternoon we pulled into Hendon and the driver gave me a great welcome. There was a blizzard raging full blast and even, inspite of shovelling was quite

We had a district picnic [illegible] There was a [illegible] good time and [illegible] and a little [illegible] and a [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and

Miss Uneeta Bryant 1930-31

her two brothers San

l Lundstrom 1932-33

She boarded at the Jar Harrison home, whose two daughter [illegible] her own age, so arranged to [illegible] it was while [illegible] that [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] and

In 1956 and because of a drastic shortage of teachers Don returned to teach at Fetzum and remained there until 1972. At the beginning of his term a teacherage had been built in the school yard. So Don and family moved in for a time, instead of commuting from the farm.

In his youth Don had learned to play the violin and at many parties, he would entertain, one of the favorites being "over the Waves."

When Frances was a child she was always in demand for her singing ability, and so it was soon [illegible] and at four years of age, with no trace of nervousness sang "[illegible] Roads from North Dakota" at one of his dads Christmas concerts at Fetzum.

When the 1971 term ended, Don had expected to be able to give full time to his farming, but once again was called on to teach -- this time at Victoria Park.

Then in 1976 with health problems beginning to plague him, Don rented his land and while Pearl worked to help [illegible] to get there until 1980, when he was forced to take life at an even slower pace.

Their three children a credit to the family. Linda a graduate nurse is presently in Switzerland honeymooning there as the [illegible] treats works in Calgary and Sandra a photo journalist is in Vancouver.

Don and Frances make their home in Lethbridge but spend as much of their free time as they can at their cabin at Waterton Lakes.

## Ann Nicholson 1938-39

The term 1938-39 saw Ann Nicholson of Raymond to teach a Pot[illegible] or Fetzum operated a [illegible] and was [illegible] first school [illegible] ed [illegible] for the weekends as [illegible] as the roads were [illegible] I boarded with the Pat Patrick [illegible] their home burned down, and then I moved to the Joseph Hanson's.

I remember the different Mack families, the Hansen's, Wolfe's all with large families three [illegible] girls rode ponies to school. I remember quite a few of them [illegible] over forty years have passed since I was there and I have had hundreds of pupils in three provinces. The last thirty [illegible] I have taught in Vancouver as a teacher of [illegible] children. I am glad that now we are in the gentle school system instead of in a school just for the blind.

Although I love Vancouver, I often think of my first country school and first country living and I am glad I had the opportunity to experience rural life

1939-45

Mary Clark Kings

en wonder now what I
best which is all that
per

I recall putting on a
right was our director and some of
those
had a dog called Socrates. I
and
We
Ma now live in Saskatoon

Mrs. Marjorie Allen

matter how cold the weather.

I

Florence Carlson 1944 to 1946

Mahlum, and five Austrings

One special event was when a public debate was held. The adults taking part were Mabel Screwsted, Norman Austring, Benny Tweidt and Mary Leepart. Mac Screwsted was the adjudicator, the judges were Don Leitch, Mr. Harrison, and Clifford Lee.

While in that district I was fortunate to board with a dear couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Davis. We played many games of crokinole and checkers when the evenings were cold or rainy. Their home was always open to welcome friends and neighbors.

Yes those two years in the Rotnum district left me with happy memories of the warm hospitality and friendships which I found there. They greatly enriched my life.

I was also fortunate in having the so important support and backing from the parents as I endeavoured to teach and discipline their children. So I toast you, "Rotnum School Parents of 1944--1946 -- You were simply great!"

After Rotnum I taught at Morse for two years and in Rose Valley for twenty-four years. I retired in 1977.

Elmer and I have three children. Carol and her husband, Steve Lane reside in Regina. Jim lives in Saskatoon and so do Dale and his wife Shawni.

Time still flies for me as I now have time to do the numerous hobbies I enjoy and also time for visits with friends and relatives.

## Miss Pearl Wasylk 1946-47

Miss Pearl Wasylk followed Florence Carlson for the term 1946-47. She boarded at the Davis'. She is now married to John Korolyk and they live at Sturgis, Sask. Their son is a teacher at Nargo.

## Marjorie Nygaard 1947-48

Marjorie Nygaard taught Rotnum School for the 1947-48 term and boarded with the Davis family. She had taken Normal school training at Two Rivers Girls school then located at Carlea, Sask. and she became a missionary candidate. She married Leland Snider and now lives at Beaumaon, Alberta.

## W. J. Harcourt 1948 - 1952

W. J. Harcourt came to Rotnum School from LeRoy, teaching there from Sept 1 48 to June 1952.

I arrived in the Rotnum School in the fall of 1948 and remained there four years. This was a long stay in a rural school for a teacher at that time. If I remember correctly, the School Board

ul Mack's where Mrs. Mack did her

In Grade two were Fay

improve, but we sure

[illegible] for another in the Borden War. The hospitality shown us when [illegible] Tarrytown had us over for a supper and an evening of table [illegible] parlor.

I would remain on and on but suffice it to say that I have [illegible] found warmth on all the people and pride in our school, [illegible] I may say I am aware of nothing I will ever do in life that [illegible] will mean as much to me as this one. It is the most civilized of all the communities I have worked in.

## Marion Allen 1952

When the fall term began in 1951 Marion Allen a local girl [illegible] was employed as a primary teacher. [illegible] She left for Fort Pegg after [illegible] her brief [illegible] stay of two weeks there to [illegible] at the [illegible] wedding. The [illegible] on correspondence [illegible] and when she left and the school had to be closed [illegible] for the rest of December.

[illegible] the fall of 1951 Irene Livingston after much deliberation [illegible] decided to [illegible] at the Union one. Irene [illegible] for a year and then moved to Reno to [illegible] Christ Church Parish. [illegible]

When the fall term commenced in 1952 Mrs. Mary Smith, [illegible] was employed as a primary teacher. [illegible] and her children [illegible] and our friends. Mary [illegible] remained here until June of 1956.

[illegible]

A new [illegible] appeared on the scene of Trinity Farm [illegible] Mary Yutah [illegible] and was a welcome addition to [illegible] Mary [illegible] Yutah [illegible] prepare [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] Mary [illegible] Yutah [illegible] Mary [illegible] Yutah [illegible] Mary [illegible] Yutah

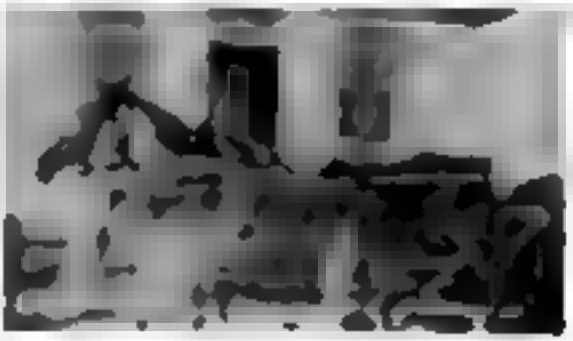
[redacted]

[redacted] Release 1962 - 63

[redacted]

on a chair placed near the stove.

[redacted] used before snow plows and school



# First School Meeting

Public notice is hereby given that the first school meeting for the organization of the undermentioned territory into a new school district and for the election of Trustees will be held on Saturday the 12th day of June at the house of J J Kidd

The meeting will be called to order at 2 o'clock pm the afternoon (Standard Time) the poll for voting for and against the district shall remain open only one hour. Ten minutes will be allowed for nominating trustees the poll for trustees shall remain open thirty minutes. The boundaries of the district proposed to be formed from include the following tract

All of Sections 5 6 7 8 17 18 19 20 in Township 3 Range 12 West of 2nd M. and all of Sections 1 11 12 13 14 23 24 in Township 26 Range 13 2nd M.

Date of posting this notice the first day of June 1920

J J Kidd
G E Hanson
Daniel Stout

Secretary

THE FORMATION OF ROTOMA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The proposal for the new district was on the 14th of [illegible] the application [illegible] was [illegible] 1920 The applications were received from RM's 336 & 737 at this time [illegible] were gazetted by order in council.

According to the proposed district map of [illegible] the district was to [illegible] and the road to [illegible] from [illegible] part of [illegible] was given for the areas [illegible]

At the time of [illegible] the new school district there were [illegible] rated ratepayers in the area

The assessed [illegible] was made with a total value of $86,859 00

[illegible] was received on [illegible] for erection of the [illegible] was to [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Mr. and Mrs Fred Lowndes

concluded

h parties, since no buildings were

alled, the loads came i

except shingles and loft doors.

as a baby, born in L
Charles Rawlinson an

the Willard Hall 'a-

[illegible] prayer [illegible] need for a prayer house,
[illegible]

[illegible] read and after
[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

into the middle 50's. The ring was set up by farmers in the area and they would all have one beef animal to raise for butchering at the beef ring head quarters at the Watrous farm. From there the meat that had been processed would be delivered to the members. That is the way you always had fresh meat in the years that we didn't have deep freezes.

During the wet years of '54 and '55, we and Raymonds operated a grain dryer, one of the first in the district.

Following is an excerpt from a Herald dated April 1935

Submitted by Doreen Wells

[illegible] and [illegible] Adam and [illegible] to Melville where [illegible] this country. [illegible] was green. It [illegible] very hard to do. [illegible] Daniel the youngest of [illegible]

God had two more [illegible] mother left all her [illegible] not to shed tears and [illegible] other [illegible] crossing, her ocean [illegible] with her all her life [illegible] before she made [illegible] and she enjoyed that [illegible]

When my folks left for Canada, [illegible] to what they had [illegible] city and father wanted [illegible] compromised and became farmers [illegible]

a child. When mother went for her little one, Dad told her to bring one

The years now seem so long ago. Dad's parents came to Canada in 1928 and lived close to us. They were Clemens and Matilda Mack with Carl, Erna, Cristine, Elsie and Eric.

Mr & Mrs C Mack
Gus, Cristy, Carl, Eric
& Elsie Mr. & Mrs Willie
Mack Louise & Siegfried

I have the fondest memories of grandpa. Often as we sat sitting in his rocking chair and he told us stories of his The excitement we lived through his stories.

And grandma. One as we fondly called her was a petite Just under five feet tall. She raised a large family and always had a big garden. I remember her flower garden was more from any I've seen. Her geometric designs were very

Uncle Tom lived at home after he came home from the father passed away, he moved to Parish Point with

Mother and Dad lived on this farm from 19 time on until and I could tell my folks moved into the April of 1 , and died passed away on December 2 Mother lived in Madena until her passing on December 3rd,

Gordon lives in Regina. His wife Terry and their four Brian, Larry, Dennise and Tarol. He works for as a draftsman.

Mr & Mrs Eric Mack

Eric Mack came to Canada at the age of one year with his parents farmed in the Mt. Olive area and moved to the Okanagan area Eric and his sister, Elsie attended Dot Rock School.

After school Eric started farming. But in 1944 he and his folks moved to the Okanagan Valley in B.C. and had a fruit farm.

In 1948 they returned to their farm on April 1 - 1952 and lived there until he was married to Daisy Avery in 1950. They bought the former Tom Riggs farm and then moved to Kipp Lethbridge, and in 1959 or 60.

Eric at present is foreman of Frontier School Division maintenance crew.

[illegible] has been very active with her home work as in the Parch [illegible] and is an avid gardener.

[illegible] and [illegible] have a family of [illegible] Irvin, Kirk, and Joanne. [illegible] grandfather, [illegible] Irvin and Kirk attended Potnum school

[illegible] had [illegible] miles to go to school. [illegible] winter it was [illegible] and [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] and a team of [illegible] a year [illegible] power [illegible] paper was [illegible] of [illegible] with [illegible] was a [illegible] day and [illegible] was a [illegible] a week.

[illegible] would [illegible] of meat or [illegible] neighbors [illegible] borrow a few [illegible]

Submitted by Linda Beadle (Mack

[illegible] and [illegible] from [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible] school there in 1958, 59, 60.

[illegible] and [illegible] married [illegible] Archaul [illegible] live on Bigger, Saskatchewan [illegible]

Mr. & Mrs. Willis Mack

[illegible] and [illegible] worked [illegible] for [illegible] married [illegible] area [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

I remember only two classmates by name [illegible] Garrison and [illegible]

[illegible] of my pleasant passtimes was [illegible] assembly [illegible] the word [illegible] a recess, [illegible] by the [illegible] teacher was [illegible] and heard me [illegible] to the front of the [illegible] she [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] for the [illegible] remember the [illegible] was "The Arab's Farewell to his Steed"

[illegible] was a relief [illegible] year at [illegible] school as a war [illegible] [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] time was [illegible] "Garrison's [illegible] or [illegible] from a [illegible] a [illegible], what [illegible]

[illegible] carried a [illegible] from [illegible] story [illegible] and [illegible] of grub [illegible]

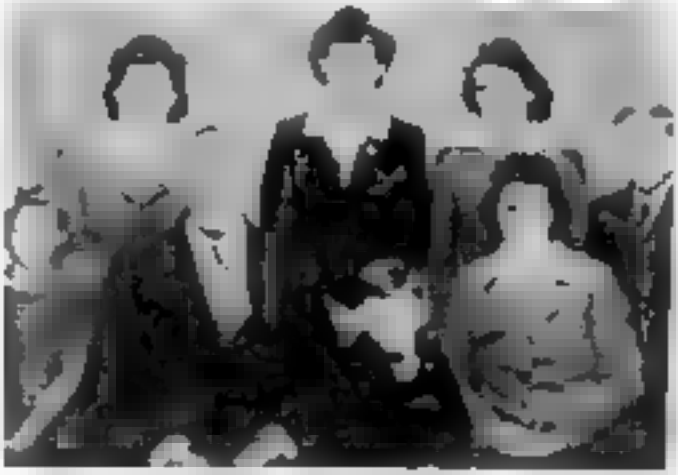
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] was [illegible] at [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

He enlisted in the First World War 1916-18 to serve overseas with the infantry during the war. He was wounded in action on September 2, 1918 two months before the signing of the Armistice. He served in France 18 months with the 46th Battalion. During his service with the army he was member of a tug-of-war team which won Canadian honors and was defeated only by an overseas team of Mast End police force London, England. He was greatly pleased to receive a medal from the Queen. He was discharged from the army in September 5, 1919.

He was associated with the building of the C P R railroad through Kamsack and Sandy in 1923. He married Margaret Nelson on June 2, 1926 the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nelson who had taken up homestead property 35, 3 miles south of Sandy Bay. They moved from their home, Sweden to make their home in Canada. Mr. Wahlund was a carpenter who built many homes, schools, and churches in this district as well as being in charge of the building of the Sandy Bay Church which is still standing today.

Mr. Wahlund played a very active part in the community. He served for 11 years on the council of Lake View Rural Municipality. He was on the board of trustees of the Kamsack High School for years. He served as secretary for the Kamsack Agricultural Society for many years and later he held the same position for other sports. He was well known in the district as a successful farmer up until the time of his passing on the 12th of March 1952. He and Mrs. Wahlund reared a family of 6 children, all of whom attended Sandy Bay school.



The Wahlund Family

Alida married Helge Anderson of Foam Lake. They have a family of four girls and are now living in Wynyard where she is employed at the Wynyard Co-op as an office clerk.

Donna Anderson (daughter of Alida and Helge

Donna Anderson was the eldest daughter of Helge and Alida [Wahlund] Anderson and while Alida was ill for a couple of months

Mr And Mrs. Peter McInnis

pare  r  And  rs  bert Pirie were born in Aberdeen
 d a d came as c ildren to Camp elford, Ontario with their
pare s

 parents were married in 1880. In 1884 they moved west to
Stra  a r  a  r w  r  r  ither  was the third youngest
i  a  a  of e even and was born i  strathc r ir lor . My
pare s farmed  ac  Pirie for the remainder of their years
 e ded a ro tr ar  ear  a d  ther worked in the Dirtie
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by Joyce [McInnis] Harrison

Harry Linden Gary Prybilski Amos

Many others helped to

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r and Mrs Fred Jones. We have 3 children.

ie who is 12
of Reitmans

and heven children, Carla Joy 6 years old and Russell Lloyd 2 years old. Lloyd works in the Co-op store and made worked for also telephones seeming to be at home with the family.

David and Barbara Pleasant Spencer live in Kamloops. David is a qualified pipefitter and works for Alton Gas. Barbara is a receptionist for a firm of accountants.

I was divorced and met my present husband in Kamloops and later moved to Falkirk, and we Peter retired we returned to his home town of Penticton, B.C.

Submitted by Verna Lillian Corkerill Cornish

Cornish family

I was born in Sedgewick, Alberta on Oct. 22 1913 and started school at Creek School from grades one thru grade ten. I started school in 1919 and in grades one and two sister was also in the other two and my class were the more twins. and the second year in one room with Mrs. Parker a Miss Bingham. I would like to add my classmates in grade two so I was allowed to skip that grade and go into grade three. That year was a old and I was of my class as was the highest in grade one. I don't recall anything else. In grades five and six the teacher was Miss Agnes and I was not sure but was a word. Grades seven and eight I can remember courses and one about which I assists me of the earth but I was fine and enjoyed reading and arithmetic. My class where I graduated from school with my aunt and uncle.

I was out of school for one year before starting high school training at Normal to be employed at the Post, after graduated in 1932 as a registered nurse and worked after a while, Ontario Border, and Calgary, Alberta, and also over.

I was married in 1938 to Frank Corkerill from Hanover and we have resided in Penticton since 1945. We have a daughter Alberta aged and Stephen aged who are presently in school.

I have worked part time for the past years at a nursing home until June when I retired from nursing.

I have many good memories of my days at Duck Creek School. The biggest event of the year was always the annual Xmas concert at Meadow Bank Hall It took weeks of practice to prepare for and always meant getting a new dress,even if it was a home made one. The concert was always held in the evening and the hall was always packed with people. It was the biggest event of the year In the summer there were picnics and ball games at the Hall or across the lake. Church and Sunday School were held at the Hall on Sundays during the summer months In the fall there was an annual Fowl supper and dance Other enjoyable times were berry-picking and harvest time. Although there was lots of hard work to be done in the fall. it was the most enjoyable time of the year.

Submitted by Clifford McInnis

I was born in Wadena, Sask. on July 12, 1933. I was the fourth child of Mr and Mrs. Peter McInnis of Kelvington.

I attended Duck Creek School from 1939 till 1947.

I left my parents farm in 1948 to go north. I worked in various jobs in the north until 1953, at which time I joined the R.C.A.F. spending two years at Prince Edward Island. Upon discharge from the airforce I moved to B.C. and worked for the Lumber Industry. I married Muriel Higgins of Coquitlam. B.C. in 1963. We have one son, Dwayne Peter born Sept. 1968.

We moved to Smithers in Northern B.C. in 1973 where I am employed by the Province of B.C. with the Ministry of Highways.

Submitted by Lloyd McInnis

I was born in Wadena in 1934. My fathers name was Peter and my Mothers name was Lillian. I have three brothers Ronald, Clifford and Minnie and two sisters Joyce and Verna.

I attended Duck Creek School till Grade 7 after which time I went to Brand and Kelvington.

I worked as a heavy equipment operator till 1957, then I joined the R.C.A.F. for 3 years.I have lived in Port Moody, B.C. for the last 20 years and am active in community work

I have one son, Tom and a daughter Melody Jane.

Saskatchewan in November 1935.

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and Bill

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Submitted by Marlene [illegible] Messenger Erickson.

I, Marlene Helen Erickson. My fathers name was Alfred [illegible] born at [illegible] was [illegible] phrey, Sask. [illegible] Dad was a farmer and [illegible] He loved trapping and [illegible]

My best friend was [illegible] was on a [illegible] see what happened [illegible] ed a new [illegible] to us once and [illegible]

I went to High School at Wadena and later on married Ernest Erickson. We lived at Nineton Sask. [illegible] Ernie works for [illegible] Temp for over [illegible]

[illegible]

Submitted by [illegible]

Richard James [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] Gloucestershire, [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

essenger in 1900 took up a homestead i

Douglas fi inhed
and viola finished

When he came to Canada, he came to Cardale, Man where he worked on a farm for a few years, then in 1914 came to Fenwood, Sask He farmed there and married Edith Derrestory, she was born in Grennel Iowa U S A She had come to Fenwood with her parents.

Their first daughter Mae, was born there and they moved to the Meadow Bank area when she was a year old They had five daughters, Mae Mrs Seymour Smith of Hendon Ethel, Mrs Paul Schubert of Archerwill Doris, Mrs Bud Bridal of Wadena Alice Mrs. Wally Fidelak of Twilight Ida, Mrs Walter Zhubeck of Kuroki

In 1946 Mrs Messenger passed away Jim then sold his farm and retired first in Wadena and then on Vancouver Island at Nanaimo

Mr. and Mrs Thomas Monson.

Mr and Mrs. Monson homesteaded the N E ¼ 16- 36- 12

There were five children born to this union and all attended Duck Creek School Katrina, Euphemia Mary, Agata and Erhard (Richard)

Richard passed away in the 1900's and Agata had predeceased her brother. Agata was married to Albert Ament and for years lived in the Hendon district where they raised their family . Her husband has now retired and lives in Wadena

Submitted by Mary Meade (Moore

George Arthur Moore
Alice Maude Moore, (nee
Mar , Thomas George & Leslie
(twins ived on Section 15

The family came from England, lived on a farm through the 1920's, then settled in Meadow Bank 1931 to 1938 then returned to England

The father's trade in England was a car mechanic, mother's maiden name was Taylor but English.

While in my teens, my three brothers were born. We lived on a small farm and in the depression of the 1930s. My folks could not afford a hired girl, so I stayed home to help my mother so was not able to go out to work and earn money My mother was in poor health for a while after the twin brothers were born We lived in a two-roomed house, two small houses put together with a wide passage between them, six enough for a small room which my father built on.

The lake ran through our land, 2 sections on of our land

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] for the dances, Thurlow Gowan, [illegible]

Submitted by Leslie Moore.

The family name is Moore, my father's name was George Arthur and my mother's name was Alice Wood, but they are both deceased My elder sister is Mary Victoria Moore, my brother is Thomas and my twin brother is George George and I were born on October 19th [illegible] at Wadena Hospital. We were baptised at the home of my parents at Meadow Bank, by Rev. A.M. Atkinson on November 16th 1912.

Our house was situated on Sec. [illegible] Meadow Bank, but before coming to Canada my family lived in Hinckley, Leicestershire which is an inland [illegible] town almost in the centre of England. My father worked as a car mechanic before going to Canada and my mothers family name was Taylor and they were both British subjects

Both my brothers and myself attended Duck Creek School and our teachers names were Miss Kate.son and the Headmaster was Mr. Burgess. I do not remember very much about our school days as I was only at school for a short time I can remember a few of our classmates,

including Jamie, Shirley and Freeda Wright, the Prybelski family Stuart and Jean Donald, Rory and Anne Avery. My brothers and I attended Meadow Bank Sunday School and our teacher was Anne Donald.

In 1918 my father was not enjoying the best of health and we returned to England in October of that year.

My wife Jean and I have two daughters and a son. I am employed in the hosiery trade which incorporates the manufacture of tights, socks, knitwear and underwear. The textile industry is the main trade in this area where I live.

Submitted by George Moore.

I was born in October in Madams Saskatchewan.

I left Canada for England in the summer of 1919 on the ship Montrose.

I went to Duck Creek school Meadow Bank and was taught by Miss Eskelsen.

Duck Creek School was a wooden building with only one classroom. Different grades were seperated by sitting in certain rows of benches. There was one teacher who taught all grades and aged. I was at the school for about 18 months and in the winter dad would get us there by toboggan.

Our house in Meadow Bank consisted of two wooden buildings connected by a covered passage. One building was used as a bedroom and the other was used for living in. The house was situated at the edge of the lake, and one winter they towed it across the frozen water, but didn't tell us kids in case we wanted a day off from school to help.

We had two horses, Buster who was lazy, and Nell. We also had a few cows and a dog. Buster died when he slipped in the stable and broke his leg. Dad dragged his body out and we used to pass the skeleton every day on the way to school. I remember that in the winter local people and ourselves would get our water by cutting chunks of ice from the lake and melting it down.

I remember the dances that were held at Meadow Bank Hall because when they went on late the youngsters like us were put to bed in beds in another room at the hall. Some nights we went home from the dances in a "Caboose" which was a caravan on ski's with a fire in the middle.

I remember a man called Freddie Jones leaving an old engine in his back yard. He said he'd give us a dollar if I could start it. I never did.

There was a playing field with gopher holes in it. We used to try to catch the gophers at playtime. Another game was swinging from the rafters in the barn where the horses were kept.

Submitted by Tom Moore.

We lived on Section 14, At Meadow Bank. My father was a car mechanic

I remember my classmates as being the Wright's, Avery's Prybelski's and Donald families.

I was nine years old when I left the Meadow Bank area. I now live in England.

## Dan Morrison Family.

Submitted by Ben Morrison.

D.J Morrison ( Dan ) homesteaded the N E ¼ 16-16-12, in 1907. He sold this homestead to Mr. Linden in 1912 and moved to Wadena. This land is now part of the present Linden farm at the east end of Morrison's Lake.

The Morrison's came to Sask from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Their forefathers came from Scotland to Cape Breton about 1820. These people built their own sailing ships and crossed the Atlantic, duing a three month voyage.

Mrs. Morrison's maiden name was Jessie McMillan. She had been educated as a school teacher but enjoyed book-keeping. Dan Morrison was a very able and versatile settler His people were engaged in fishing, lumbering and to some extent in farming in Cape Breton. He was well aquainted with hard work in the east.

On arriving on the homestead, he shouldered the logs about one-quarter mile to build the homestead house Shown in the picture below. His range of befitting language was greatly expanded while trying to operate a binder drawn by four oxen However, the oxen were soon replaced by horses.

Mrs. Morrison, being skilled in book keeping took care of the first Post Office at Meadow Bank. Mr. Haffner was the mail driver from Wadena to Kelvington

Mr Morrison, Ben and Neil.

a lot of roaming about the school yard.

There was a well with a green [illegible] good for squirting on one another. [illegible]

[illegible] at Meadow Bank in that log house [illegible] just like it was yesterday.

Submitted by Hal Morrison.

[illegible] in 1910, Ben was born in 1908.

[illegible]

Ben and I to the mailboxes on the lake alongside our home, get there once the mail was sent to Dakota and get the big box of .lg each.

The farming was all done by hand. I remember the first horse and buggy going to and the one I was convinced and he was a thing. I on the first car every one and don't say he was the car it was driven to Fort Totten Reserve of Parliament to the world only one trip around a certain time. I guess we must have had a dry spell as there was no roads built for cars then.

I only went to Dunk Creek school a couple of terms. I remember Mr. Hooper and Mrs. [illegible] as my teachers. We then moved to Dakota [illegible] so I went to a school on the S.E. corner of the school part while the Red Brick school was under construction.

I am now retired and living on Pine Plaza.

## Mr. and Mrs. Dale Nelson

Submitted by Marion Beauregard (Nelson)

My fathers name was Dale Fairlie Nelson. My mothers name Kristine and we three children - Agnes (Brown and Avon). My parents came from Fergus Falls, Minn. Dakota and were farmers back in the 30's & the depression was a bit hard to Dakota. In order to support the family my father had to do trapping and trapping on a side line and farming. We were fed and on a small amount were to get ahead then. Dad our farm and made enough money to travel to Canada.

We were the first family to leave Saskatchewan for Canada. On I it of May 1928 we started out in our [illegible] we traveled via Fergus [illegible] and the [illegible] of it took us over a week to reach [illegible] and of our hopes and dreams. We came to Plum & peg and from there the [illegible] came down us to Dakota. a I did notice any [illegible]. Here [illegible] broke and we got the axeles, and had arranged for us to stay temporarily on the Bateman farm where a Brandt [illegible]. For the rest [illegible] of the summer and winter here we met the [illegible] Richard and Morris Dorberg and [illegible] during harvest. We also helped to build the [illegible] in Dakota.

We bought our first team of horses and three cows at an auction sale in [illegible] and in the spring of [illegible] we bought and moved to our own home [illegible] and south of Dakota. Here it is [illegible] which we bought [illegible] farms.

In the spring of 1929, I started going to Dakota School. My first teacher was Miss [illegible]. My first day at school was not a happy day [illegible] you remember how I was [illegible] that big stove and cried [illegible] I was a not understand a word of Eng. at [illegible] I learned that [illegible] and also Thomas spoke [illegible] a lot our farms was [illegible] [illegible] Roy Barton [illegible] Teach a [illegible] and [illegible]. My Agnes [illegible] very understanding and good to me

Submitted by Werner Nelson.

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such as the C.P R. and

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Time for Sunday
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but the time for all this is

## Ingrid (Linde) Nelson

Ingrid was the eldest child of Nels and Kristina Nelson coming with her parents, brother and sister to Canada from Tarnaby Vesterbatten, Sweden where she had already entered school

In 1920 the family settled on Sec 2 - 36- 13, now farmed by brother Verner

In 1940 she married a local chap, Chris Hagen who had come from Norway. They settled on SW¼ - 1 - 36 - 14 (presently owned by Frank Gutak and later moved to Hendon where they operated a cafe.

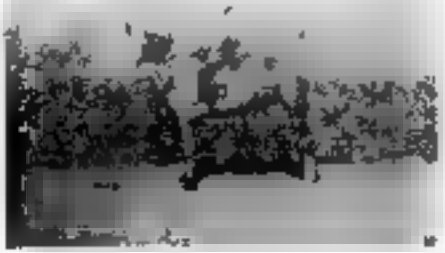
Two children were born a daughter Ellen and a son Maurice.

Chris passed away as the result of an accident while working for the Pool construction

Ellen became a registered nurse and married Linus Westberg of Yorkton, who works with C K O S television station. They have three children Maurice is married, has two daughters and works as contract foreman in Y N.T

Ingrid is presently Mrs. Archie Linde and they make their home on the farm between Hendon and Wadena.

She is an avid plant lover and their yard in summer with the flowers in bloom, is a real pretty spot.



Left: Mr. and Mrs. Bob Gowan

Above: Stuart Donald on his pony "Mick".

during recess and noon lunch hour.

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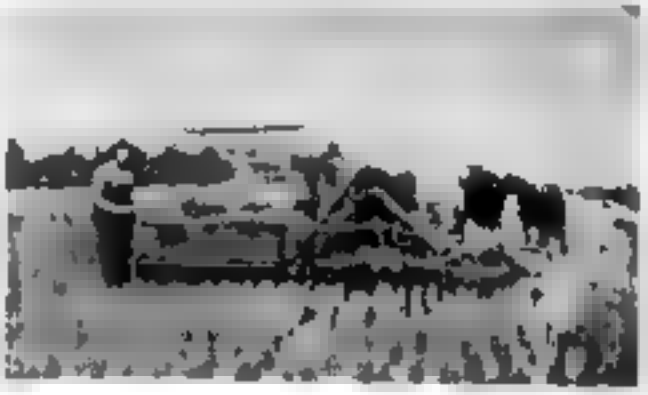
skunk and arrived at school that morning, we were told by our teacher to leave skunks alone during the school week.

I never did receive a strapping during all the years I attended school at Rotnum. I did however, stay in after school for almost a whole month, after taking part in a toilet tipping exercise with our teacher in it. It was taboo for a teacher to smoke during school hours. So this teacher used the boys toilet to have his smoke. It was on one such occasion that us older boys decided to tip the toilet with the teacher inside it. We never attempted that stunt again nor did he use the toilet for a smoker. There are many other incidents I could relate, but all in all I owe a sincere thank you to all my teachers who worked so hard for our education. There was times when one teacher had over 35 students from grade 1 to 9 or 10, and I must say the teachers did an admirable job. I must also mention Miss Margaret Davis who taught Sunday School for a while at Rotnum.

## The Jacob Outlis Family

Jacob Outlis was born in 1873 at Clermont, Iowa and Caroline Knudson was born at Redwing, Minnesota in 1872. They were married in 1894 and had eleven children. The family immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1920 from Northwood, North Dakota settling first at Theodore, Saskatchewan where five brothers attended school. They later moved to Springside, Saskatchewan where four brothers attended the Beaverdale School.



A Harvest Scene on the Outlis farm in 1928

The next move was to Yorkton in 1926 where a farm was purchased on the E ½ of Section 21, Twp 26, R 1) W 2 M. While clearing land the family resided on the Curry place. During this time Martin attended the Victoria Park school until a move was made to the Norstein home and he then went to the Rotnum school. In 1929 they moved to their farm where they built a home. Glen started school then, attending the Rotnum School along with Martin.

The teacher in 1928 was Charles Spencer who was followed by Miss Campbell. After her term was completed Mr. Spencer returned to Rotnum. Then Miss Bryant taught followed by Miss Evelyn Dahlsbaug, Mr. Earl Leach and Miss Mabel Linstrom.

Gradually the family left home for other parts of the country

Caroline passed away in 1968 and Jacob in 1974. Oliver passed away at Reedley in 1977. Myrtle was killed in a hit and run driver while vacationing in California in 1941. Edith married Fred Burton of Springside, Saskatchewan and is now a widow living in Coast to Washington. They have one son Kenneth. Cora who married Marion Wallace of Peterborough, Ontario is also a widow and lives in Kelowna, British Columbia. Leonard married Grace Whalley of Seattle and they have two children, Charles and Catherine. Russell married Emma Brydahl of Swift Current and have one son Russell Junior. Martin married Irene Hanson of Lewis, Minnesota. Martin is now a widower and lives in Seattle. The twins Kenneth and Joseph passed away in 1918 and 1919 respectively. Ida married Florence Hazelwood. They have two children, Gerald and Dawn. Ida and Florence live on the home place at Reedley.

## The Glen Ostlie

Glen Ostlie (Norwegian - Florence Hazelwood (Swedish) from Eastern school district west of Reedley - one of teachers who attended Reedley school were Miss Leishman, Miss Bryant, Mr. Spencer, Miss Lindstrom, Mrs. Smith, Jensen, as were Tom Mc. Ott, Nora Peterson, Stanley Larson, Ethel Sohn, Martin Nelson, Jennie Evans.

Mr and Mrs. Glen Ostlie live on their farm 8½ N. 14 W. Besides farming, Glen has worked at the Reedley Dairy on Market and also with the bridge crew - department of highways during winter months. Florence was a worker of the staff lunch counter for almost years at the Reedley Auction Market.

Gerald is married to Caroline Thornhill from Hartley, Saskatchewan. They reside at Lorado where Gerald is employed by Ostlie Caroline is the Lab Technologist at St. Joseph's Hospital at Watrous.

Gerald attended public school at Lorado. Teachers were Mrs. Frank Cotes and Joe Smith. Lessons as were taught by Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Leonard. He graduated from Watrous Composite High School. Then worked with the Department of Highways at Watrous and Regina. The office is at Regina where he worked prior to moving to Lorado.

Gerald being musically inclined has played with various bands and for the past thirteen years as lead guitarist with the "Lorado" orchestra.

## Gwendolyn Ostlie

Gwendolyn attended Watrous School, Watrous High School and graduated in 1968. She worked as a housekeeper at the Watrous Co-op for 11 years. She married Don Strudwick from Watrous in 1969.

They lived in Calgary for one year where she took training as a Hospital Assistant. She started work with Saskatchewan Pool in 1970. They moved to Lethbridge where she worked at the hospital in Theodore. In 1973 they moved to Montreal, Saskatchewan and she worked at Lorado Manitoba.

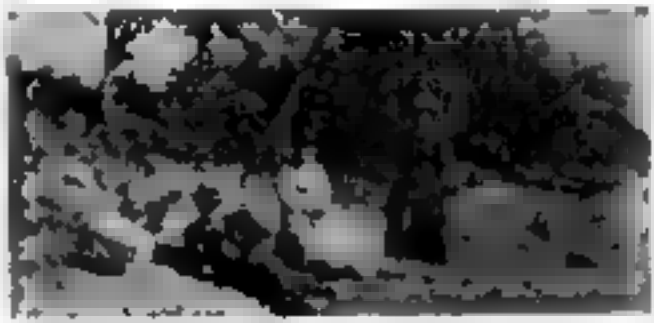
In 1976 our son, Darren was born. In 1978 we moved to Saltcoats where we now reside.

## Dorothy Otter

Dorothy Otter was the eldest daughter of Willis and Christina Otter. She attended Eatonia School for a short while in 1926 while living with Grandma and Grandpa Otter on the farm now owned by Ken Cutak.

## Mr. & Mrs. Wm Otter

Mr & Mrs. Otter were both born and raised in England and they had operated a hotel there, prior to coming to Canada. Because of Mr. Otter's illness, the doctor thought the climate would be better for his health than the dampness of the English climate. Mr. Otter had a family of five children by his first marriage, Harris, Rose, Mae, Violet (Mrs. Joe Brice) Willis. He later married Annie Richards and she with her husband and his family came to Canada and the Wallace district in the Yorkton area in 1907. They later moved to the Meadow Bank district where they farmed the NW ¼ 20-36-12. Upon retirement, they moved to Kelvington where they lived until Mrs. Otter passed away in 1929. Mr. Otter then went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Joe Brice until his passing.



Mr. & Mrs. Wm Otter, Sam, Albert and Mrs. Lansaley

## The Parish Family

Richard and Amy Parish came to Canada in 1911 and arrived in Regina. They spent the early part of their years in the Leask Yorkton districts working for various farmers. To this union there were four children, Richard & Thomas who were born in England and Albert (Bert) and Phyllis who were born in Saskatchewan.

In 1921 the Parish's moved to the family homestead in the Listlaw area. In the early days Mr Parish and his eldest son, Richard used to come to the Kelvington area to thresh. On many occasions they threshed with the Robert Gowans. Wages were very poor and the work was hard. Mrs. Parish used to stay on the homestead with the rest of the family where there was cattle and other chores to do.

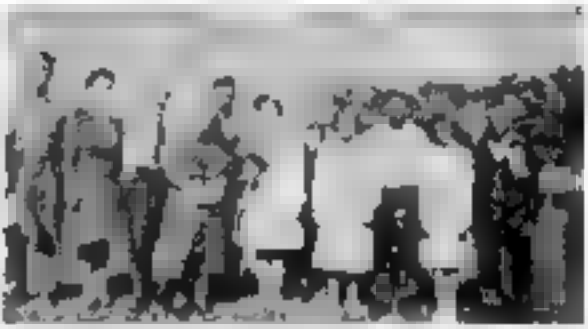
In 1926 the family moved from Listlaw to the Duck Creek district and lived on the former Jack Gowans place. The two youngest children,

Bert and Phyllis attended Duck Creek School.

Phyllis (Parish) Little remembers quite well when she went to Duck Creek school and Olive Ekman, a school chum invited her to come to her house and stay over night. When they got to the Ekman home, Olive's parents where not home, and Olive and I decided to bake a cake. We selected our favorite recipe - a coffee cake. We followed the recipe very well, until it called for one cup of coffee We used one cup of ground coffee How delighted we were to have followed the recipe so well But we were digusted to see the cake, it was just like cement. What pleasant memories.

They lived in the Duck Creek district for thirteen years, and then made a final move in 1941 to the quarter that their third son, Bert now operates Mrs. Parish raised extra money, selling eggs, chickens and cream. A record that has been kept by her daughter, Phyllis, registered four dozen eggs were sold for 50¢, two chickens for $1.32 and a turkey sold for $2 40. In 1942 they sold 50 bushels of wheat for $19.00 and five gallons brought $5.32. A gallon of coal was .30¢

Mr. Parish passed away in 1951 at the age of 71 years. Shortly after the death of her husband, Mrs Parish moved her house into the yard of her daughter, Phyllis Little. She spent 16 years there until her death in July 1967.



Left to Right - Dick and Lorraine, Mr. and Mrs. Parish, Tom & Evelyn, Mr & Mrs. Erickson, Bert and Doris, Bill Clarkson

Richard Parish Junior is retired and he and his wife reside in Tuffnell, Saskatchewan. They have two children, George of Estevan and Sandra (Mrs. Sandra Andrusowish) of Wadena.

Tom Parish and his wife, Evelyn (Erickson) reside on a farm northeast of Wadena. Three girls were born to this union, Linda (Mrs. Doug Schneider) of Martinsville, Darlene (Mrs. Pat Santo) of Prince Albert and Lila at home.

(Albert (Bert) Parish and his wife, Doris (Erickson) live in Wadena. They have one son, Albert who farms the former Lytle farm.

Phyllis Parish (Little) and her husband, Jim are retired an

he would have a farm of his own.

hard, a good team of hor
needed in those early yea

the frosty air.

Missouri, U.S.A. who kept his southern drawl all through his life. His buggy and sorrel mare were never to be parted and remained to be a mode of reliable transportation for Jay, till both buggy and horse became too old and worn out. Carl mentioned many times about Mrs Weeklund's fresh bread that tasted excellent. Other neighbors also added to the community and its affairs.

Threshing time was a prime example of neighborly cooperation and participation. The old belt driven separator was often kept humming till late at night. Field pitcher's arms ached and the teams often balked for another load of bundles when the days were stretched out.

The barber is Carl and the victim is John Weeklund.

The Sunday afternoon haircut performance. Carl claims it was a fair cut, rather uneven and would consider it a 1/2 crop grown on a 3weeds - John Weeklund.

Every straw and grain kernel was handled by muscle, three times before the straw pile and at least four times after the straw pile. It is little wonder, then why the shoulders and necks of our forefathers were well rounded and their hands stiffened from long periods of over use. Today, who would think of hauling grain in a 100 bushel sleigh box, 16 miles to Wadena with 2 teams all frosted up on a cold winters day Carl was gone by 6 a.m. with a load, headed for Wadena, unloaded by noon and after some groceries and supplies obtained, headed back home again. It was late that night when finally the team were unharnessed and all the chores done

The railway was soon to come to Hendon in 1923 and some farmers even got trucks later on. It certainly was a lot closer to deliver the grain and market livestock and get your groceries and farm supplies.

THE COYOTE CHASE - Carl loved riding horse back and one of his most exciting winter sports was chasing coyotes. On one such occassion, Carl had started a coyote and was closing in on the tired animal. The weapon he used was a tough root stick. When he was about to jump the fence the stick caught and the end hit him in the face, tearing a hole in his cheek. He realized the gash in his face was in need of immediate attention and the coyote was forgotten. He held his arm over his cheek and headed for the nearest neighbor, Mr. Jay Garrison, and with his help went over to Mr. William Harrisons'. When he got to the house, he persuaded Mr. Harrison to try and stitch up the hole in his cheek.

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

and I could sit down
front for lunch, etc.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

They are the sons of Mrs. Carl Peters

[illegible] onte has
[illegible] Pomona, Minneso-

Recollections by Mrs. Elizabeth Peterson

Quite a few years have gone by when we came over to this promised land where it was supposed to be "milk and honey" flowing at all times. I have to admit it was here the air was high above ours as factories polluting the air. The soil, what a pleasure to let it ripple through your fingers and imagine what could be growing in the soil.

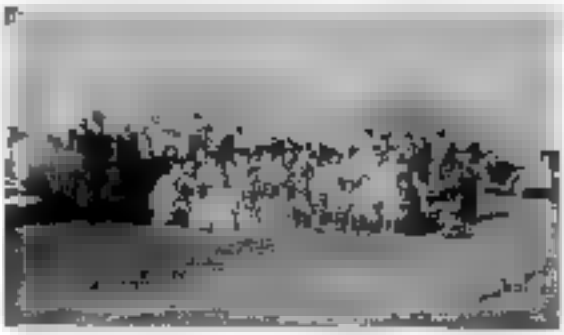
We were working at Carl Peters at that time. Father had gone over to [illegible] promised land a few months earlier. I followed with my five children and one of my sons just a few months later to the [illegible].

So the first year I planted a large garden, as I always did in the old country. My land was a ground and full of fruit. Weeds and other such nothing [illegible] grew [illegible] Mr. Peters came over from the bush camp and told me it was a crime that [illegible] should [illegible] and [illegible] that there should be [illegible] that the frost would not get [illegible] disappointment that it was to all of us [illegible] imagine how many tears I shed that morning after all I had a large family to feed.

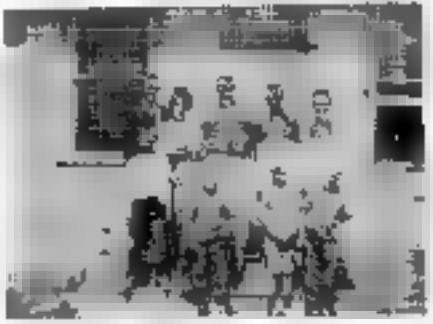
We planted four miles around and neither [illegible] but as the spring [illegible] help [illegible] I found an old [illegible] and [illegible] there [illegible] a loaf of bread [illegible] a good old fashioned [illegible] which we could [illegible] a good plot [illegible] I have been able to [illegible] this day.

Margaret, Dave and Andrew all attended Petrean school [illegible] we bought a [illegible] and [illegible] grocery on our [illegible] of each other. [illegible] we had a six-room [illegible] lived until we retired into [illegible].

I still live here and look after my half acre of garden and enjoy every minute of it.

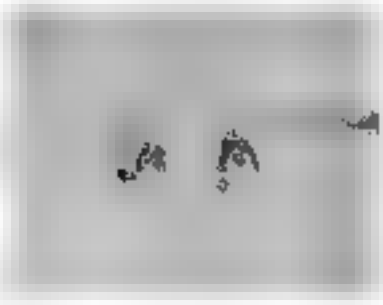


Meadow Bank Mother's Day Tea



Back row: Lloyd Nelson teacher, Judy Twaidt, Bradley Screnstad, Calvin Twaidt, Lowell Twaidt. Center row, Larry Twaidt Darrell Twaidt, Debbie Screnstad Kathy Twaidt, Cheryl Twaidt, Front row; Malcolm Twaidt, Caroline Twaidt, Ricky Twaidt, missing is Beverly Leitch.

Meadow Bank kitchen



Skating on Meadow Bank

Meadow Bank Ladies aid

## Mr. and Mrs. Metro Prybylski

Metro immigrated from the Ukraine to Canada with his parents Mr. and Mrs Nicholas Prybylski in the year 1899 at the age of ten years. They homesteaded in the Beaver Dam district of Sask. He was one of the first settlers there. While still quite a young lad, Mr. Prybylski worked in the fields along with his father driving oxen.

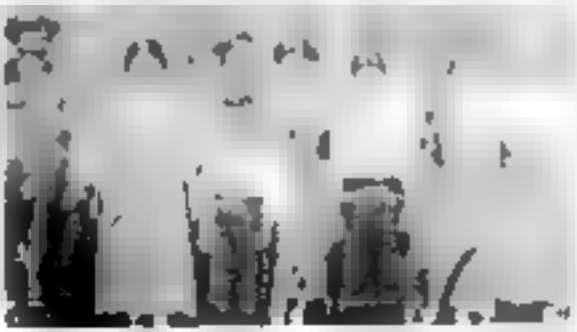
In 1910 Metro met Annie Danesewich, who had come to Canada from the Ukraine with some friends working for different people in the area. That fall they were married. Mr Prybylski bought land in the Redburgh district, built a log house and other building and took his bride to this home.

They were blessed with seven children, all born on the farm with father and a midwife in attendance.

Mr. Prybylski served as a trustee of the local school in this area for a number of years. In 1928 he sold the homestead and taking his family, moved to the Yorkton area. This was a result of the bad crops of the dry years and the crop failures which forced another move in 1932.

That year he came to the Meadow Bank- Duck Creek district and purchased the J C Miller farm. In spite of the hard times we always had lots to eat and lots to wear. Mother always saw that we had a big garden and cows to milk.

Five of the children attended Duck Creek School, Mary, Stella Steve, Peter and Dennis. We all enjoyed going to the dances at the Meadow Bank Hall with the Dynamite Five supplying the music. There were also ball games picnics and other activities as well. Christmas concerts were held and Meadow Bank Hall was always filled to capacity making it hard for Santa to get in with his bag of goodies.



Left,

The Prybylski Family

taken in 1938

Annie (Mrs Ernest) Thorell of Calgary, she passed away in 1964. Her daughter, Beverly, lives in Florida.

Fred and his wife Anne live in Kelvington. They have three girls. Marcella Schhultz, Francis Ekstrom and Darlene Gillings.

Mary (Mrs Adrian) Norberg, they live on the farm south of Kelvington. The Norbergs have three children, Karen Brayshaw of Chilliwak, B. C. Chloe Linde of Calgary and son Peter, who with his wife Gail and three sons live in the same yard and do the farming.

Stella is Mrs. Mike Bohychuk and they live in Madena. Their two

daughters are Barbara Zaleh and Theresa Matheson of Regina.

Steve and his wife Shirley, with their two sons Gerald and Thomas live in Saskatoon

Peter was the quiet, un married, musical one of the Frybylski family, who worked in the mines in Eastern Canada He passed away in Vancouver in 1990.

Dennis, the youngest his wife Muriel and two children live in Calgary were he works for city transit.

In 1960, Mr. Frybylski sold his farm to John Minken and moved to Wadena where they retired. They took a very active part in the work of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Metro passed away in March of 1976 and his dear wife followed him three weeks later, in April of that same year.

Respectfully submitted by Mrs. Mary Norberg.

Submitted by Steve Frybylski.

I attended Duck Creek School in the years 1932 to 1938.

I had a number of teachers during those years namely, Mona McKay, Eva Harrison, Martin Bordson And Amy Eskelson.

After leaving school, I farmed with my parents until July 1941, At which time I enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War II And served in Canada and the United Kingdom with the R C A.F. until my discharge in May 1946.

After my discharge I continued to farm with my parents till 1953 when I retired from farming

Mr. and Mrs Oscar Rotnem

Oscar Rotnem homestead the S E.¼ -18-36-12. His brothe Rudolph homesteaded the S.W ¼ -18-36-12. Rotnem School was later built in the S.W corner of this quarter, on a piece of land donated by Mr. Rotnem.

Rudolph passed away in the great flu epidemic of 1919

Oscar was married to Miss Pohlman and they had three children, Hagar, Clifford and Roy.

Father and sons farmed five quarters of land. In 1920, Oscar and family went to the United States and the Kidd Brothers rented the land until 1924 when Oscar returned to farm.

The Rotnes family lived here until 1936, when they sold the farm and moved to Kenora, Ontario

Sanford.

Submitted by Mildred Meacham (Sanford)

I was born in Wadena, Sask. in 1915 My mother passed away in 1921 we lived on the farm with my father until he passed away in 1929. I went to Willow Glen School and moved to Meadow Bank where I stayed with Mrs. Lancely and had a short time going to Duck Creek school Then I moved to Kylahew Sask and stayed with my uncle and Aunt and attended the Dartmore school where I finished my school years. When I was old enough to go out working, I went out to work. I met my fiance and was married Oct 4th, 1930.

We lived on the farm in the Carrot River district, we had a son Melvin and a daughter Shirley. They are both married now We have five grandchildren. My husband and I stayed on the farm until 1972 and went out to work for the Pioneer Grain Construction. My husband did carpenter work and I cooked for the men for seven years. We moved to Nipawin Sask. in 1976 and plan to retire here.

Mr and Mrs. Otto Schau.

Submitted by Ethel Partridge (Schau)
and Elsie Morton (Schau)

Mr Schau was born in Nebraska, U.S.A. of German and Danish parents and came to Sask at the age of two. Mother was born in Springside, Sask Her parents were English.

Dad and Mother were farmers all their lives They farmed at Theodore and Yorkton, before moving to the Duck Creek district in about 1930.

Ethel and Esther attended Duck Creek School for approximately one year. As it was quite a distance to go, we were given a horse to ride, but we didn't make it on time as the horse would stop and eat grass and we couldn't make it go I don't remember the teachers but we went to school with the Donalds, Harry Landon, Evelyn Sunde, Margaret Cornish and Joyce McInnes.

Dad moved to the Rotnum district and bought the same land as the school was situated on. He was making sure we lived close to school this time. The first teacher we had at school was a Miss Bryant Other students at the time were the Hansons, Tweidts, Scrumstads, Ostbies, Garrisons and Evans family

Emily Sophia (School [illegible]

[illegible] d here that she mar-

It was here they shared the work

Williams, of Allan, Sask, Diane, Mrs. H.

Christina Schmidt

the Schmidt home. Their three

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] was born in Toronto, Ontario

[redacted] ke a daey", Uncle
ladies foot-races

and that on one occasion having to run the 21 miles to Madeno to get the Doctor to the Neil Harwood home near Errington

Christina Schmidt

The Duck Creek home was the SE quarter of Section 26 and in the spring the creek would flood making it necessary for us to cross by raft to visit the cows if they should happen to be on the other side. This would happen if the bridge went out during the day. One year Bob Gowan was helping clean grain and the fanning mill was across the creek at a log granary and we must have a half dozen trips across that day with the water rising higher each time. On the last trip, with two pails full of milk from the evening milking, we got too far in the now swiftly moving current. It swept us downstream and we snagged into a heavy group of willows. The force of the current dangerously tipping the raft. Over went the milk of course but I hung onto the willows and somehow, Rud poled the raft to where the creek broadened out and we got into shallow water and finally to safety. Rud was 12 or 13, I was 8 or 9 and neither one of us could swim a stroke.

Rud Feeney and myself went to Duck Creek School in 1921 and '22 and maybe part of '23 if my memory serves me well. My first term was only for two years but I do remember with a glasses look over the fall our last year there before going to the newly opened Broad School

Some of our classmates were Van and Percy Comer, Sam Lansely, Walter Passmore, Ann and Phillip Arnold, Lorne and Irene Arnold, Ernest and Ida Arnold, Ernest, Otto and Edith Beck and the Berg children. These last were Anna, Helen, three girls and Daniel. They spoke no English when they started and had a bit of a hard time. Daniel, not so much as the girls

meant find
wire fence

Barney MacNamara

, Neil MacLeod had a car and
field work to drive her there But
they got stuck in Naff's mud
ix broke, gangrene set in before

she could be operated and though she was a month in the hospital it didn't drain properly causing serious health problems. She never did regain the energy and health of formerly and a fine little person and good athlete was lost when she died in Vancouver at the age of 28.

Ida married Wilfred Bown and went to live in the Noblerville area. Arthur, John, Robert, Joseph, Marion, Charlie and Hermelens all went to B.C. to live. Prince went to the School for the Deaf in Winnipeg and Saskatoon. He too excelled in sports, especially soft ball and hockey and was chosen for the young Canada (to Europe) team in 1932/33 but because he was late in starting school and could only attend for 8 years the school would not give permission for him to go.

Submitted by Dennis Schmidt

"My grandfather Henry Schmidt was born in Odessa Russia in April 18[illegible] of German parents, moved from there to Emerson, North Dakota in 18[illegible].

"My grandmother also of German parents and born in Odessa followed soon after to become his bride.

"Their next move was to a homestead 20 miles north east (now Ryan) of Yorkton, Sask., where my Dad, John was born on December 23, 1892.

On November 4, 1902 Henry Schmidt, his wife and one son, John, two daughters Carrie and Christie along with the Joseph Wagners and their two sons Dan Wertz and his father, Jacob came to take up homesteads along Duck Creek.

There was a Hudson Bay post about 14 miles north of Henry Schmidt's homestead on NE ¼ 26 35 and 3 established ranchers in the area, A. McPherson north west at McPherson Lake, Joseph Wood on the Pipestone Creek straight north, and Pete Prouse where Kelvington now stands.

The only source of provisions were Wadena and the Hudsons Bay post, so enterprising Pete Prouse decided to do something about it and started to bring in supplies from Shaho to help out the new settlers.

When the train came through Wadena it brought with it land seekers and guides to take the potential homesteaders to their potential plots of land. And as the road went right through the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt to cross the creek, their home consequently became a favorite and popular stopping place So much so that there were times when Grandma had trouble stepping about her chores of making breakfast.

Dad recalls the day a hungry old Indian fellow riding an equally thin and hungry horse came to the door and being unable to speak either German or English, motioned to his mouth for food. Grandma responded by giving him a loaf of bread

for which he smiled and rode away. But returned a few days later with a large chunk of moose meat.

The original log house (since burned down) and log barn which stands today were built of hewn logs by Tom Anderson and Chris Jensen in 1907.

Here is a quote from the first story told in the late 'The Red Cross Story' by Henry Schmidt published in a Fire Prevention issue of the Courier as told by Mrs. Schmidt. "It was a cold winter night when the dogs [illegible] and I warmed [illegible] to see who was under its roof in traditional homesteaders days."

And an extract from a letter of a lady to her sister in Ontario describing her first visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt

"We were still several miles from [illegible] and so cold and [illegible] that we [illegible] we came to [illegible] and [illegible] They took us all in at once and gave us the best of everything they had in their home.

They had no electric power [illegible] and were a little to hear me play [illegible] we all [illegible] very fine singing in the German and [illegible]

When we went to retire we found we were [illegible] Mrs. Schmidt's room [illegible] dressed [illegible] at a [illegible] that night and rose [illegible]

We felt we had made [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] and were [illegible] to be [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

for school work.

Submitted by Irene Schmidt

he returned to England when the war broke o

went on I used to go with the

We had our long hol about March. This was
everly cold weather.

Fortunately, we never had any

well up a little, ever
continued on to school.

youngest is in Allison, Ontario.

## Thomas Henry Seed

I, Thomas Henry Seed or Harry, as I was known, born in England [illegible] on the twenty-first of June 21st, 1898. My father was Richard Henry Seed, a farm labourer

Mother, Clara Margaret (Smith) Seed. They were both Englis[illegible] a son of William Archie Seed, born in England on February [illegible]

In the spring of 1911 we came to Canada to Vadena and north to Meadow [illegible]. We lived NE ¼ sec. 24 [illegible] and a few other farms around there

There we lived [illegible] so far from school I did not start school [illegible] was or more old. I [illegible] up to the year [illegible], [illegible] had to walk [illegible] from [illegible] and I quit [illegible] up at one [illegible] worked at home until 1920, then worked [illegible] for a year or two

In 1931 I married Stella Osterli[illegible] and we bought NW ¼ [illegible] -12 W2nd from C.N.R. and we lived [illegible] and then moved at and we [illegible] to [illegible] our [illegible]

We have a big garden on our [illegible] and go fishing [illegible] a lot [illegible] and [illegible]. We have one girl and four boys [illegible] kept busy

### The Homestead family - as written by Olga Patrick

[illegible] homestead name to Canada from Norway in 1899 and settled [illegible] per [illegible] and worked as a carpenter [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] were married [illegible], [illegible] Winnipeg for a time and [illegible] Canada, [illegible] were born here

Later [illegible] they [illegible] homestead north of Dauphin at [illegible] in Manitoba where their other five children were born.

Dad [illegible] a farmer must work to [illegible] crops or [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] children [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] homestead

We attended Park School at Kelvinhill, only two and one half miles from home

[illegible] all children we got in a bit of trouble. We had been [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

In 1927 Dad came home and said he had a half section of land, at a place called Hendon in Saskatchewan, so we loaded all our household effects and livestock in two box cars and headed west arriving at Hendon on April 10. Mr. Martin Twaidt met us with the team and sleigh and took us to Oscar Soderquists to stay, as they found the roof had fallen in on what was to be our new home. Dad and Sig got busy and put a new roof on and added a kitchen and soon we were in our new home. Later an upstairs, a permanent kitchen and another bedroom was added.

Now we children had to start school at Rotnem. Our first year we all had mumps, one after the other, so missed a lot of school and had a long holiday.

Shortly after we came to Hendon, Our cousin, Sven Hanson, came from Norway and stayed with us. The next year his brother, Arni came and called himself Arni Floatrand as he lived on the Floatrand farm in Norway Arni married Mabel Lindstrom, who taught school at Rotnem.

Mr. & Mrs. N Jorgenstad

The following year, their father came from Norway and his name was Hans Anderson. Brother John also arrived and later they all changed their surname to Floatrand. They built a house just across the main road and south of our home place, now owned by Carl Twaidt.

The cousins all worked with Dad on elevator work.

Arni now lives in Burnaby, B.C and Sven lives in Keewatin, Ontario. John lived at Warren, Manitoba and since passed away. Uncle Hans returned to Norway.

Dad stayed on elevator work for many years After we children grew up and left home, mother was home alone much of the time, and it was one of these times while alone that the house caught fire and burned down. Dad, and Mac, who was also on elevator work, came home and built a new one-storey house. At that time Mac decided to stay home and do the farming.

Dad retired every fall, but when spring came he once again got itchy feet and came out of retirement, but finally after a few years of this, he stayed home doing carpenter work in the local areas.

and Mother in 1962.

Later Sylvia moved her shop to [illegible]on, working there
Bernard

Leslie Mae is a labora[illegible]

[illegible]'s Vingyen where she did hairdress[illegible]

ed a store locker plant and the Auction

y continued to live on the farm

looking after three children. Son, Bradly

non Ark, since his marriage to E

good deal of time
house boat and in

While living there, Alma was always busy, driving milk truck, dental assistant she liked to try something new! After spending some years in Terrace where both their children were born, they moved to Surrey B.C. Where Alma operated the Cedar Grove Motel, while Howard worked in the office of a Highways at Cloverdale.

In 1[illegible] they sold their Motel and retired to Kamloops where their son Terry lives. He is married has two children and is an accomplished musician operating a music store in the Valley Centre in the city of Kamloops. Daughter Laurie also an accomplished musician and teacher. She is married and lives in Vancouver where she still has a position pertaining to Education, with B.C. Govt.

Submitted by Alma Toftager (Screamtead)

My first teacher was Miss Burnet, the year 1[illegible] I think. Others were Miss Bryden, Mr. Spencer, Miss Halstay, Miss Lindstrom and Mr. Leitch. The teachers in my mind as a child were the models of behavior, dress, language and knowledge for the district.

I have met several of those teachers in recent years and was surprised to find Miss. Burnet is such a small lady. She seemed so big and bigger to me when I was in the lower grades. She is a sweet lady still.

When Miss. Lindstrom was teaching, it made me feel quite important to carry her notes to my cousin, whom she later married and to bring his notes to her.

While she boarded at Garrison's, I often had a ride to school with her. In the winter time Laurie and I would scoop up snow and make snowballs and she would throw them at Rodney the horse to get a bit more speed.

We enjoyed softball, football, spelling and geography bees. It seemed as if we practised for weeks for the Christmas program. It was the highlight of the year.

During History class I remember making sets of eyes on a narrow strip of paper, cutting slots for the eyes of King Henry VIII or the Roman Emperor, after removing the original eyes in the picture. I interested the strip, and standing back and forth produced comical expressions on the faces of Julius Caesar and of who got the same treatment. It made history more interesting.

Leaving out the next forty or more years we are living in Kamloops "trying to retire". Howard and I have two grown and married children and two grandchildren. We both at present have good health and good grandchildren and have enjoyed an active career, have many friends and are thankful for good health, we are enjoying life.

Submitted by Sylvia Suttle [Scramstad]

I have been away from the Rotnum- Hendon district for forty-five years, but I can still remember the good neighbors he Garrison's, Wahlun's, Zwiedt's Sangor's, Carlson's, Cutlie's and many, many more Our mother was on the school board, and I remember Mr Garrison and Mr Wahlun being on the board at the same time- who else I cannot recall.

I did not attend Rotnum School, as I had finished school by the time we moved from Shivihill Man., where my father had homesteaded.

Both my parents had originally come from Norway and Dad being a carpenter by trade, worked for the Searle Grain for many years I can still remember the Sec we lived on, Sec.14-36-13, three and one half miles east of Hendon to be exact.

Bernard and I are now retired here in Thunder Bay

The Scramstad Family.

Submitted by Mabel MacPherson [Scramstad]

I began otnum school a Grade I" after co in fro a I do recall s e of ear ers o t r w t nder T g t ere was a r i d I pe er also recall a c ol w th bru s , al erson, a e arriso Ten ard arriso d ol re

Don and are re red ore in ssiboo lot a d e n e summer days on o r boys ca

Submitted by Mabel Scramstad Garrison..

Mr. and Mrs. Sig Scramstad.

I was born and raised in the otnum district on the n f 24-36-13. I started school in 1924 at the age of five, probably to keep my brother Leslie company. My first teacher was Elsie Price of Madena.

I must have had a series of very good teachers for in June 1930 I wrote my Departmental exams for grade eight at the Victoria Park School which had been declared a centre

I can recall after writing exams all day I quite often had to walk home the four miles, as Dad was busy in the fields and our only mode of transportation was the horse and buggy

I think I must have been a real tomboy and the bane of my teachers life. For I can recall quite a few times having to be punished for fighting. Sammy Evans and I always seemed to want to scrap our boots off at the same time!

Two of the annual events for which I have fond memories are the Christmas concert and the end of the year school picnic. I can still taste the good homemade ice cream, made with lots of rich cream and eggs and turned for hours by hand in Jerramstad's wooden ice cream freezer.

Some of my classmates were Sylvia Harrison, Selma Soderquist, Dorothy Evans and Hazel Jerramstad. For a sister-in-law!

I was married in 1941 to Reg Jerramstad and our first home was at Sunny Slope, where he bought grain, until 1943. When we moved to Mossbank, where he was a machinist. In 1944 we moved back and lived at Bengough, where we took over my father's farm and had expanded our operations, until Reg passed away in 1976.

I have rented the farm and am presently living in the town of Radena.

Our four children are scattered, Wayne in Salmon Arm B.C. Carole, in Moose Jaw and two youngest daughters in Alberta.

Submitted by Wayne Jerramstad.

I was born to proud parents Reg and Mabel Jerramstad, at Unity, Sask. Dad was a grain buyer for the Searle Grain Co., at nearby Bengough.

My sister Carole followed me by two years and then, in 1942 when I was three years old we moved to Montreal, where Dad was a machinist for Canada Propellors. While in Montreal Carole and I had whooping cough and mumps so they sent us returned to the Bengough district in 1944 we could both speak French fluently.

Dad began farming on my grandfather Harrison's farm and in time two more girls were born, Leslie and Marie.

Carole and I were the caretakers of Fairview School for some time and had to walk over a mile to get there and sweep the floors. I remember one day we were late, we had to hurry with the horses and to our surprise one of the horses, the cutter came out of the stagger, and we had to run and the cream can. No one was hurt and I often think that the experience was good experience for us.

For the most part our days in Fairview were very pleasant. I remember the many special events like Christmas concerts, box socials and picnics. These were a very important part of our school days. Miss Harrison and Mr. Harcourt both had an interest in sports and Frank would load up the team of horses and we would go to Rockwell and take on the play at Rockwell. We used to win all those games!!! Our

right trail, for in my dis

no impression remains on my mind.

It would seem I have become a permanent resident here as I

Submitted by Debbie Sorensen.

get away from us but if I didn't happen to like the man. For the day [illegible] the rabbits would find it.

[illegible] Lottie was my first teacher for the first three years and my [illegible] was [illegible] to get [illegible] to read so not dress good,and to say singing did not become my career.

In 1964, by the time I was ready to enter grade 7 a decision had been made to close [illegible] and bus [illegible] to Haines [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] was a [illegible] of nine [illegible] and [illegible].

I graduated from high [illegible] after [illegible] a year at [illegible] to be [illegible] to travel. In 1972-73 I spent [illegible] traveling [illegible] Army working [illegible] and [illegible] by todo [illegible].

[illegible] I spent six months in Tok [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Burton and Lawerance both went to school at Duck Creek. They went from April 1934 till the end of June.

Burton was in the American Air Force. In the second World War he served from 1939 to 1945. He made the Services his lifes career and now lives in Florida.

Lawrence was in the Canadian Army Serving over seas in the second World War.

Lawrence now lives in Winnipeg, has a family of three.

Mr. and Mrs. Severt Sunde.

Evelyn was the only daughter of Severt and Inez Sunde. They had moved into the Rotnum area after coming from south western Saskatchewan.

They lived for a time with Inez's mother, Mrs. Distad, and farmed the N E.¼ 8-36-12, the land now owned by Ken Leitch.

Mrs Distad, a widow, later married A.F Anderson, owner of the local store in Hendon Evelyn attended Duck Creek as well as Rotnum Schools.

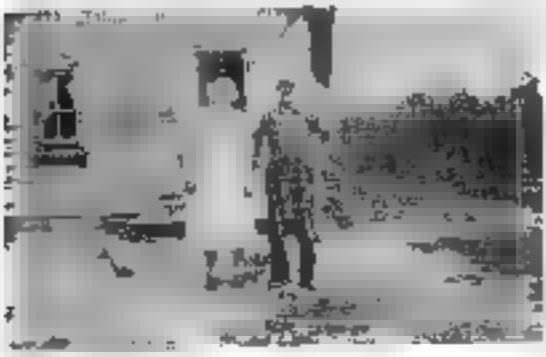
Her cousin, Stewart Whipple attended Duck Creek for a time in the 1928-29 term.

Mr. & Mrs. Sven Torgerson

Sven Torgerson was born at St Peters, Nicolet County, Minnesota while Petrina Martinson was born at Boda, Norway, coming to Landa, North Dakota with her mother, brothers and sisters in 1896, at the age of twelve years.

After living in the U.S.A. for some time after their marriage, Mr & Mrs Torgerson moved to Piapot, Saskatchewan. In 1930 they moved from there with their family to the Hendon - Rotnum area.

Mr.& Mrs Torgerson



All of their daughters attended Rotnum School the boys being older had received their schooling in Piapot.

Mrs. Torgerson was a busy mother her children speak of seeing her churning butter using her foot to operate the churn while knitting socks and doing a bit of reading on the side. During her stay in the Rotnum district she took on the janitor duties for the school and when she had scrubbed the floor you knew it had been scrubbed!

Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson are well remembered among the neighbors for their kindness and gave a helping hand to anyone in need. Mrs. Torgerson was midwife for many of the women in this area.

Tom Whitehead, who lived on the next farm to Iver, speaks of the spring he was seeding was at hand, and he was late getting his seeding. Iver came over without hesitation, offering to do his seeding.

Many good social gatherings were at the Torgerson home and their two daughters and [illegible] and Mrs. Rea were great lovers and performers of music. A great favorite of that time was "Wreck of the old 97".

Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson were able to celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary together, with their family and friends.

Mrs. Torgerson passed away in the Legan Hospital at age 70, and Iver later at a Regina hospital at Saskatoon, age 77.

Lillian Coon (Torgerson)

I was the first child born to Mr. & Mrs. Iver Torgerson while they were living at [illegible]. All we were a family of seven children, four sisters and three brothers. Two of my sisters live in Calgary and sisters [illegible] Leroy and Deaness [illegible].

I married Fred Coon of Lanigan [illegible] had moved to Lanigan and [illegible] we purchased [illegible] we have purchased a home in the city and are [illegible].

[illegible] and his wife [illegible] have two daughters and [illegible] Marlene and Lillian have one daughter Andrea and live in Winnipeg.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Tweidt,
married [illegible]

[illegible] year of nineteen hundred and four and the month of October, the [illegible] already passed [illegible] and all [illegible] and relatives [illegible] Germany to leave [illegible] Parents and [illegible] and [illegible] journey of five [illegible] have time we were [illegible] morning, leaving the old home and [illegible] friends and school mates

s days, driving east and west yet

[illegible] Henrietta Kressler [illegible] Weidt)

[illegible] came from Plaga, North [illegible] to Arthur [illegible] by [illegible] parents, [illegible] Henry and [illegible] Kressler. Henry was born [illegible] 1 mile east of [illegible] and [illegible] Pomeroy [illegible] Iowa.

Our neighbors were a very friendly and congenial people like the Hansens, Carlsons, Olsens, Andersons, Odegaards and many others.

I recall I was a cold winter the temperature was going down to 40 or more below zero. [illegible] and [illegible] were the practical jokers and pranksters. [illegible] were [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Dennis Andrew Tweidt

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

classmates at Rotnum were Johnand Ed[illegible] Parmen[illegible] also

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

firing. I remember one year running short of matches so put in requisition for an extra box. (the cost of a box of matches at that time was ten cents per box) I was sorely reprimanded for using so many matches! How little they understood how strenuous that old wood stove could be on windy cold days.

In the spring of 1942 I enlisted in the United States Navy. After my basic training at San Diego, California, I spent the remaining war years serving aboard a U.S. Destroyer in the South Pacific Aleutian Islands, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia areas

After my discharge from the Navy in the winter of 1945, I purchased the Farm I now live on.

In the month of June 1947 I married Martha Wolkenthin of Middle Lake, Saskatchewan, having met her before the war, while working at the Post Office there.

We raised three children two daughters and one son. Donna, Mrs. Robert McEwen of Quiet Lake Lowell, who is presently in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia with Imperial Oil and our youngest, Kathlyn is a dental assistant at Medicine Hat, Alberta

For the past ten years I have been working as office clerk and Insurance Salesman with A J Tweidt Agencies and presently with the new agents, Wadena Agencies Ltd.

We still live on the farm which we have rented to one of our nephews.

Donna McEwen (Tweidt)

I am the eldest daughter of Fern J Martha Tweidt and was raised very close to Rotnum School on SE ¼ of Sec 13, Twp 36 Rge 13.

Dad was of Norwegian descent and came from North Dakota as a boy in 1924. Mom was of German descent, her family name being Wolkenthin, and was born and raised at Middle Lake.

I remember Mrs. Frank Gutek as my first teacher and then Don Leitch.

We had the janitor duties for a few years and I also remember a few of the activities taking place at Rotnum. We always had a Bingo and Turkey shoot in November, and so when the Lutefisk supper came around in Bendor, we school children would go ther and sell tickets on the coming turkey shoot. From the money taken in, each pupil would be given a certain amount to order a Christmas gift for themselves, which they would then receive the night of the concert. It seemed as though most of the month of December was spent practising for the concert.

We girls used to make playhouses in the carragana hedge west of the school and in summer spent most of our recesses and noon hours playing there.

There was an empty dugout east of the barn on the Schau property and boys and girls together would play cowboy and Indians from there.

e older girls always seemed to help the younger ones and we spe part o e i e o warm ne days studying outside on the s s e geometry read, for our ne exams.

e small exciting times was when we were to have a ball game agains and er r ral school.

' la er married a farm oy o ert chsen of Quill Lake, Saskaw e a.e wo ire

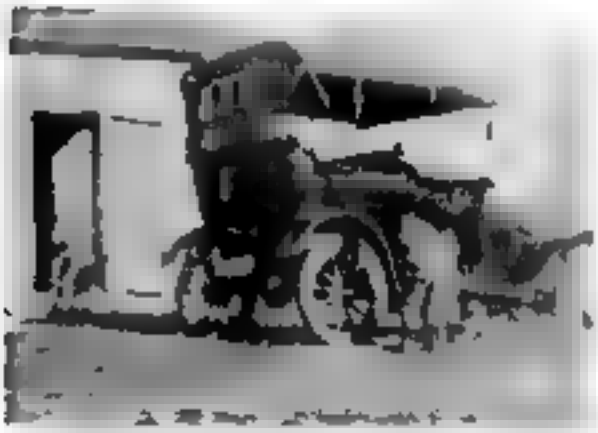
Carl Twe dt

a er, artur Swed , e ated from orway to the S A, a t a ear i after workin on farms and l er ramps for a p e , ears e e as e ne added ear Plano orth Dakota a l r a ro ra r rm wa ar year, so ney were ar ied a d pi ased ouse r and raised a a l

a ir ears t a s r r an a r even and some of the ot er r e s e as we as a d ro as came to orth Dakota some ea s ea er

f e sor r 2 ' decided to look for greener pastures r a ie r a ie r a ' e t to see a , a a ' a or e a a ' ra ers a land that the a as , W at leas eart being close o a hool.

' a ar a l e ni e in o the old ode I our- ar ' , r a e r s , as we hated to leave e s o r a wa a rmer s. ra for all of s



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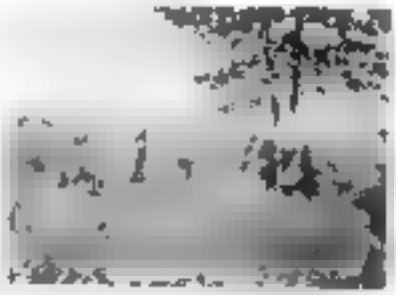


e ' as ra r wher e la d s ' eared

ere we e l wa s r ort and a at t a e, s we were e e a d or. a d ' ra , got ere on t e da of 2 of r o er

ad to lo

it had been over 50 degrees Farenheit,

from the logs we cut that winter.

[illegible]

Linnea Tweidt ( nee Hansen)

[illegible]

[illegible] south of us. Those years were very hard, as [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Don Tweidt

I started school in the fall of [illegible] all-mans and Dunns, [illegible]

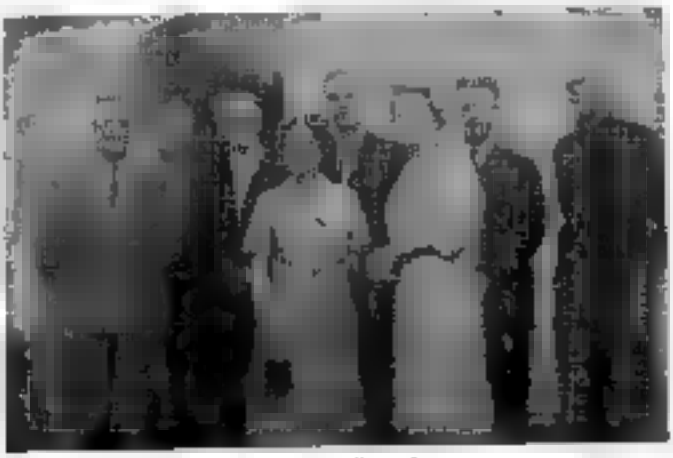
was a big day for most of

orch River Saskatchewan in 1957

Our mode of travel then was mainly horse and buggy or cutter and horseback or bicycle.

After leaving school I worked in other areas and also served for a time in the Canadian Army during World War II. I farmed with the family while single then after marrying Pearl Anderson of Rosston in 1948 we moved to the former Joseph Hanson farm, where we raised a family of two girls and three boys.

Three of our children, Judy, Larry and Malcolm attended Rotnur School until it was closed, then Lyle and Corinne had to attend Madena School for all grades.



The Tweidt Family

Judy Tweidt (Kiland)

I was the eldest of five children born to Melvin and Pearl Tweidt. My father had come to Canada from the U.S.A. as a boy and was raised in the district. My mother was born and raised near Rosston and her parents had come from Sweden while my father's parents were originally from Norway. After their marriage, they settled in the Rotnur area where I was able to take grades 1 to 7. Ron Leitch taught me for many of those years, then Lloyd Nelson was the last teacher, prior to the school being closed. Mrs. Herman Allen was our occasional substitute teacher.

My classmates those seven years were Beverly Leitch, Lowell Tweidt, and I believe the short time Dwight Ahlen attended, he was also in 7 grade. My two eldest brothers and I would go to school in winter by horse and cutter and we never failed to enjoy all the excitement of the annual Christmas concert.

I married Elwood Kiland who was from the Orpington district. We have a family of two boys and live in Edson, Alberta where Elwood works

## Larry Tweidt

I was t e eldest son of Melvin and Pearl Tweidt - two sisters Judy and Jer e and two rot ers Carol and I completed our family.

I attended Rot r school from 1954 till its closing in 1959 and took rides to a , as well as seeing several were, Ter ie, and Tabor with Jer e. Some of my classmates were Kirk and Ter e and sister Jud o el to r or so De e and I were transferred through public school to graduation.

I live i Edson, Alberta where I work as a mechanical Millwright

Submitted by Delmer Tweidt.

I was the third child of the Martin Tweidt's family, and was at Pleasant Hill on March 7th. Two years later our family immigrated to Canada.

As I was less than three years old I have very little memory of the trip to Canada, but I do recall arriving at our new home east of Edson. I distinctly remember getting out of the car at our new home. The memory of how excited everyone was remains with me to this day.

We had traveled in a 1928 Model A touring Ford car which by today's standards wasn't built for great speed. We were not in any order or were not in a hurry. Each great adventure was an extraordinary event. On the first day we were on the road for only a few hours or less. Each day I have traveled a little farther. After years of gravel roads and modern cars are now a big factor.

My trip started on Pleasant Hill and my two brothers were two small children, a per ar, Mom, Dad, and my sister Ida. Ida and Bert a elson.

I also recall some interesting events as to or a hotel in one in par ar at a tea or we did a new oil as a te r and and we r ed ff o a g l ar reas a on r a 's ar near t a r a l i a ar ff a the a 's ar are we ad la a r of pr es a d and r es p a we as a r armed with a g and we a ! ar we ears a h ra s seemed r a l ! a we w a , a more r and perhaps ar a , a p a one or , there was near as a as we ad ra

These were the depression years of were referred to as t e t a a t o work r ed trave ed east o a ea a f we a i a to w a p a a w as still under constr on

[illegible] months later I returned home, and in the fall of [illegible] when the [illegible] was ready at war, my brother [illegible] and I went [illegible] to the states where we [illegible] in the armed [illegible] [illegible] was sent to Seattle Wash. where I trained and worked in an aircraft plant.

[illegible] returned to Pender where I took up farming. Brothers [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] and on [illegible], I married [illegible] district.

[illegible] we moved to the [illegible] where we spent [illegible] [illegible] we purchased a farm at [illegible] [illegible] and raised a [illegible] [illegible] Hereford and Shorthorn.

[illegible] and Richard are [illegible] married. The former living in Nebraska [illegible] [illegible] and Darrell's wife [illegible] [illegible] are from [illegible] area. We have one grandson, Ty Daniel

Submitted by Richard Tewidt.

[illegible] for one year starting in the [illegible] [illegible] that time we [illegible] and made [illegible]

[illegible] with us at recesses and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

memories of these get togethers will linger in my mind as part of my growing years.

My wife and I are once again in the Bendon area after living in Melville, Jedburgh and Ituna, where I bought grain Then later Saskatoon, but it's nice to have returned to our childhood area. Bev is also a Bendon girl, daughter of Norman and Elsie Harvey. We have a little son, Ty Daniel, who has red hair, I'm sure that he will carry on the families trade mark of red hair.

I am presently working in the oil industry in B.C but my time off is spent in the Bendon and Meadow Bank areas.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wallman.

Submitted by Lydia Copithke (Wallman).

Being among the early pioneers we lived a very simple life and were very poor. They told me that the house I was born in had a mud floor. We climbed upstairs by a ladder and slept on a straw mattress on the floor.

There was no school or Church, just a Post Office and grocery store.

Grandfather Wallman, on my father's side, raised cattle. The family was kept busy working hard down on the old farm. There were two sons, Jacob and Joseph, and six daughters, Susan, Sarah, Barbara, Annie, Emma and Edith

Now Grandpa Wallman helped organize the Kelvingside School as we lived south-west of Kelvington.

I had four brothers; Edward, Albert, Sam and Jim. I am the eldest.

My mother's name was Mary Wallman from Dominion City, Man My mother came to help on the farm. My dad knew my mother only one week. He took her out once and told her, "I like you, do you like me"? Dad's father being a minister married them. Quite an interesting romance, wasn't it? They got along very well, Mother passed away in 1919. I was ten years old at the time.

Dad married my mother's sister. Five boys were added to that union, Alfred, Harvey, Alex, Lloyd and Arthur. We got along somehow, it was rough, my wardrobe consisted of a skirt and blouse which I washed every saturday so that it was clean for Sunday church.

We rode on horse back to school, fell off dozens of times, but the good guardian angel watched over us.

If someone had an ear ache, Dad blew hot smoke from his pipe into that ear Once one of the boys pulled another out from under the bed, he got a big sliver [those floors were not painted)

Dad took his pocket knife to perform an operation while the boys held the patient.

At night we'd sit around the table by a kerosene light. When the door was opened and the light blew out, all we needed was an other match. We lived in one room. Those were rather close quarters. We never had a lock on our door. No one ever stole anything No one would want anything we had anyway, so we didn't live in fear like many do today

I was very unhappy, as I prayed. Grandma did too, that I could leave home. God answered my prayer, one day Reverend and Mrs. Hofer came from Chicago and held evangelic meetings in Grandma's house. I went with them. I had never seen them before. That was the happiest day of my life.

That was in 1927, and I have made Chicago my home ever since.

The Joe Wallman Family.

Joe Wallman was born at Freeman, South Dakota to Rev. and Mrs. Wallman. He came with his parents, brothers and sisters to Gorlitz, Sask. in 1891 where they took up ranching

In 1903 they drove from Gorlitz to Kelvington in wagons He married Mary Wallman in 1907 and to that union were five children Lydia Ed, Albert, Sam and James. The family home was on the Sj 32-36-12.

Mrs. Wallman passed away in 1918. Joe then married Mary's sister Maggie in 1920. To this second marriage five sons were born, Alfred, Harvey, Art, Alex and Lloyd

Maggie Wallman passed away in 1942. Joe retired in 1947 and passed away in 1963

Of the first family, two sons had predeceased their father, Ed in 1953 and Sam in 1964. Ed had worked for Willard Hall for many years and will be remembered for his singing at functions in Meadow Bank Hall, where one of his favorite songs song was "I'm a Great Big Swede From North Dakota".

Sam passed away in 1964. He and his brother Albert had worked at various places in the district and later owned and operated a caterpiller tractor, doing bulldozing and scrub cutting. The two had bought a farm consisting of a section of land, but after Sam's death Albert sold out and moved into Wadena. Later he moved to Lintlaw and presently plans a move to Quill Lake.

James is married and lives in Port Alberni B.C. Lydia, Mrs. Copithka lives in Chicago.

Alf and Harvey were in the second World War from 1941 to 1946 in the Army Division and both served overseas.

Alf is now married to Violet Colby (Wichstrom) and still farms but lives in Vadnais.

Harvey is married has three children and lives in Regina where he works for Sask. Power

Alex is married and lives in Kenaston where he works as a carpenter

Art lives in Swift Current and is a Radio Announcer for C K S W He spent a great deal of his youth in and out of hospitals. Most of his schooling was taken while a patient in Regina Hospital. He has made a great name for himself in the field of radio announcing, in spite of his handicap.

Art often talks while on the air, of his home place known as "Thousands Flats" and of going out every fall after threshing and filling up his mattress with new straw and how they would have to climb up on it the first few nights to get it into shape he also recalls and mentions the warmth of the old feather tick on the beds.

Lloyd is married to a former Vadnais girl, has a family of five and lives in Surrey B.C. where he works as a plasterer

It was in 1917 that a fire destroyed the Wallman home and while they were rebuilding the barn, Harvey lived and Alex stayed at the E Harrison's home and attended Eatman School.

Mr and Mrs. Arthur Weaver.

Submitted by Dorothy E Kemplin.

My father Arthur Weaver and my mother Gwendoline Irene Weaver, my brother Lonnie Frank and I arrived from England in 1911 and lived with my grandfather and grandmother Mr and Mrs. Richard Messenger, my two here parents or their farm at Meadow Bank, until we located in Vadnais East. My father then resumed his profession of music teacher and organized the Vadnais Band

Approximately six years later we moved back to Meadow Bank My great Aunt and Uncle Mr And Mrs Fred Jones of that district owned two farms so we resided on the one. My father still taught music, band played and organized the Dynamite Fire Orchestra. He played the piano, Lawrence Wheeler a former member of the Vadnais band played the cornet Horace Newman former resident of England played the drums, Charles Jones played the bass and his two cousins Leighton and Curtis Jones played the violins. The Dynamite Fire Orchestra played for the dances at Meadow Bank Hall and my uncle Herbert Messenger was the Square Dance Caller. We would dance from nine at night until three in the morning.

I attended Duck Creek School It was a nice one room school house with a big wood heater to keep us warm in the winter. Mabel Bailey was one of our school teachers, she was a wonderful warm

When she left we were fortunate to have another nice teacher, Eva Harrison. My schoolmates were, Muriel and Kenneth Donnad, Harry Linden, Cora Lindsay, Percy and Thelma Cowan.

After a few years at Meadow Bank we moved to Kelvington, Sask. where my mother and brother with his family still reside.

The nationality of our family as English. While we resided in England, my father was in the music profession. He was also in the Signal Core in world war one, and badly wounded. When world war two started he went to Camp Dundern, where he worked in communications, until the war was over. Later he became Postmaster for the Kelvington Post Office and was Postmaster until he passed away.

Whitehead.

Lorne Whitehead,

Lorne was the oldest child of Agnes and Harry Whitehead who farmed in the Rotnum district. He took his first year of schooling at Rotnum with Wilf Harcourt as his teacher. By a strange twist of fate, Wilf was also his last teacher (principal) when he finished high school in Kelvington.

Harry recalls what a time they had getting him to school when it rained. The road by the farm was in a direct line south to the school but only a dirt road with no gravel and on wet days you might as well forget those two and one half miles. You just had to detour about twice that far to make the school.

Lorne was a very shy little fellow and shed a few tears that first day, but he found a little playmate whom he knew before coming to school, so he and Leslie Scranstad shared a desk, until he got used to his new surroundings and the other children.

Lorne married Eunice Maddens of Abbotsford B.C. and they have three children. They farm land in both Rotnum and Orpington district and live on his parents (formerly grandparents) home place.

Wickstrom.

Submitted by Birdie.(Wickstrom) Neilson.

I originally came from the Willow Glen area, when I lived with Axel and Hilda Carlson for one year and attended Rotnum School. My older sister Ruby, now Mrs. Johnson of Rose Valley lived at Axel Carlsons for a number of years before I came, she left shortly after I came in the fall of 1941.

I don't remember the teachers name, she was a very nice person. Once while the school class was out to play ball, as I was back catching, I got hit with the bat on the bone of my eye brow. The scar is still there. It's funny to me now when I think of how hard I cried more over the bleeding than the hurting, and then the teacher cleaned it up and put a bandage on it..

I have always remembered the children, I thought were so nice and especially remember mixing with Jessie Winarski. I also often talk about when Mrs. Carlson hesitated to help me with my homework, finally when she would tell me the reading word or spelling, she would tell it to me in Swede (which we spoke at all times). Then at school we would take turns going up and stand along side the teacher's desk, facing the class to read and when it was my turn to read I'd go up there and read the words in Swede as they were told to me by Mrs Carlson. We often speak of this and wonder how many people in the school might remember this. As I read the words in Swede the teacher would look to the side and smile and the class would look up and smile, but both teacher and class smiled in a nice fun way.

On our way home from school Jean Evenson and I took so long in coming home that her mother and Mrs. Carlson would phone one another and be looking and waiting for us as we played on the road home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickwire.

The Wickwire family with their four sons, Harold, Lloyd, Neil and Kenneth came from southern Saskatchewan and they rented land from Mr. Carl Peters.

Later they came to live on the S E ¼ 24- 36- I3. The land now farmed by Lorne Whitehead. While the boys were too old to attend Rotnum School, they were a great addition to the social life of the district

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winarski.

Joe and Tina Winarski had come to Canada from Poland and came to live in the Rotnum district when they purchased the N.W.¼ I3- 36- I3.

They had a family of four children, two boys and two girls all of whom attended Rotnum school.

The oldest boy Stanley went to Ontario and worked for Brantford Twine Co. Jessie lives in Alberta and Teddy was also in Alberta, Working in Conservation The youngest of the family, Caroline trained as a Psychiatric nurse in Moose Jaw where she married Ted Torgenrud. and they make their home there.

Joe sold this quarter of land in I945 to Sig Scramstad and moved to the Harrow district west of Hendon. A few years later they sold that farm and bought a house in Wadena where they now enjoy retirement.

Mr. and Mrs. James Wright.

Bank area in 1923 and took up a homes

ribbon or tiny flower.

ould.e under the covers and watch the Northern Lights dancing in the sky. [illegible] a most home like whispering and crackling in the cold pitchness of a winter night.

Grades one to eight were taught in school and after that it was a correspondence course or high school in town. [illegible] and Pop-eye et cetera. The [illegible] grades and [illegible] and [illegible] correspondence [illegible] and [illegible] the [illegible] part of [illegible] to go to town and [illegible] take grade eight. [illegible] and [illegible] rather a large part of [illegible] and it was [illegible] the [illegible] of one room in which [illegible] heard [illegible] The [illegible] [illegible] per week and [illegible] food that [illegible] from the [illegible] those correspondence [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] and rented [illegible] and [illegible] and [illegible] to town [illegible] and [illegible] down and [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] houses owned by the [illegible] Gairdner on the outskirts of town.

The [illegible] were very busy with school and parties [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] carpenter [illegible] and he [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

after we had settled on the homestead Dad served as councillor of the Local Improvement District before the Lakeview Municipality was formed. In later years, he served a term as Deputy- Reeve of the Municipality.

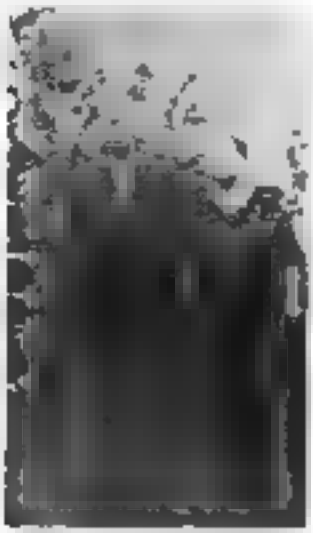
Meadow Bank hall was then the centre of all social life, as well as all church services, so my folks were a part of all the social activities in the hall in those early homestead years.

Dad loved to sing and was always in demand at these gatherings, some of his favorite ballads being "Grandfathers Clock" and " O Prairie Land". Mother and Dad told us of the night they had been attending a gathering at the hall, when a fierce thunder storm came up They hurried to get the team out of the barn and get on their way home,when the winds began to blow with great gusts. A few minutes after getting set to drive off, a great gust came demolishing the barn and driving 2 by 4's into the ground. Carl Peters who had been leaving at the same time, managed to grab a post in the ground and hang on until things settled a bit. Brother Louis had been at home in bed when the winds rose and a great gust blew his bedroom window in, showering his bed with glass

Tom Whitehead had come from England in 1911 and we met and married at my folks home in Feb. 23rd,1914. When we moved to our own place and built our first house, Doris Harmon (Prouse) looked after our baby son Harry.

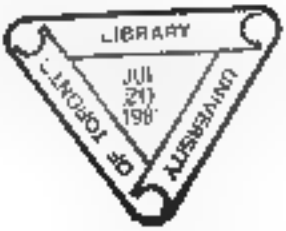
Mother and Dad had been among the guests at the wedding of her (Doris's) mother Jeannie to Ed Harmon in 1907.

Mother passed away in Jan. on 1936 after a short illness, and Tom and I cared for Dad in our home until his death in 1940



Above, Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, Ruby Johnson.

Right. Grandma and Grandpa Monson.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# Dedication

A dedication has been attempted towards our forefathers-- to whom we owe so much; To the present inhabitants-- to whom, have carried the task set out for them; And to the future generations; that will be able to look back into a simulance of records, to be able to in some future date, carry on from were we have left off.

May you all find joy in our attempt to reach this goal.

The Committee's.

# Forword

Our local history of the community up to 1980. This has been prepared as a mark of respect to our pioneers and teachers. In compiling this book we have tried to revive memories of the past, please the people of today and present a true record of the facts for the future. Some names and important events may have been omitted, but not intentionally. In general it is the record of the past, Written by the people themselves, or their children.

Perhaps, at times, we have been repetitious, but it is better to have a story told twice then not told at all. However, we hope our readers will overlook our shortcomings and from this book get a greater understanding of the enormous task faced by our forefathers. They were courageous men and women; as shown by their stories. Many left comfortable homes to come and wrestle with the wilderness and to build this community and make it possible for us to enjoy it as it is today.

We are strictly amateur and we wish you would bear this in mind as you read. Errors will creep in, despite all effort to check dates and facts. We ask for your forgiveness and hope you will think only of the family about which you are reading and over look all mistakes

# Acknowledgements

**Cover designed and sketched by Dianne Gradin of Wm. Harrison's log house. (Still standing today).**

**We owe a debt of graditude to the many who have helped in compiling, sending information, editing, typing and doing the paste-ups for this book.**

**Special mention should be made of the work done by Mabel Scramstad, Leonard Harrison, Mary Leitch and Noreen Tweidt in co-ordinating all the work required. Without their many hours of devoted effort this book would not have been possible.**

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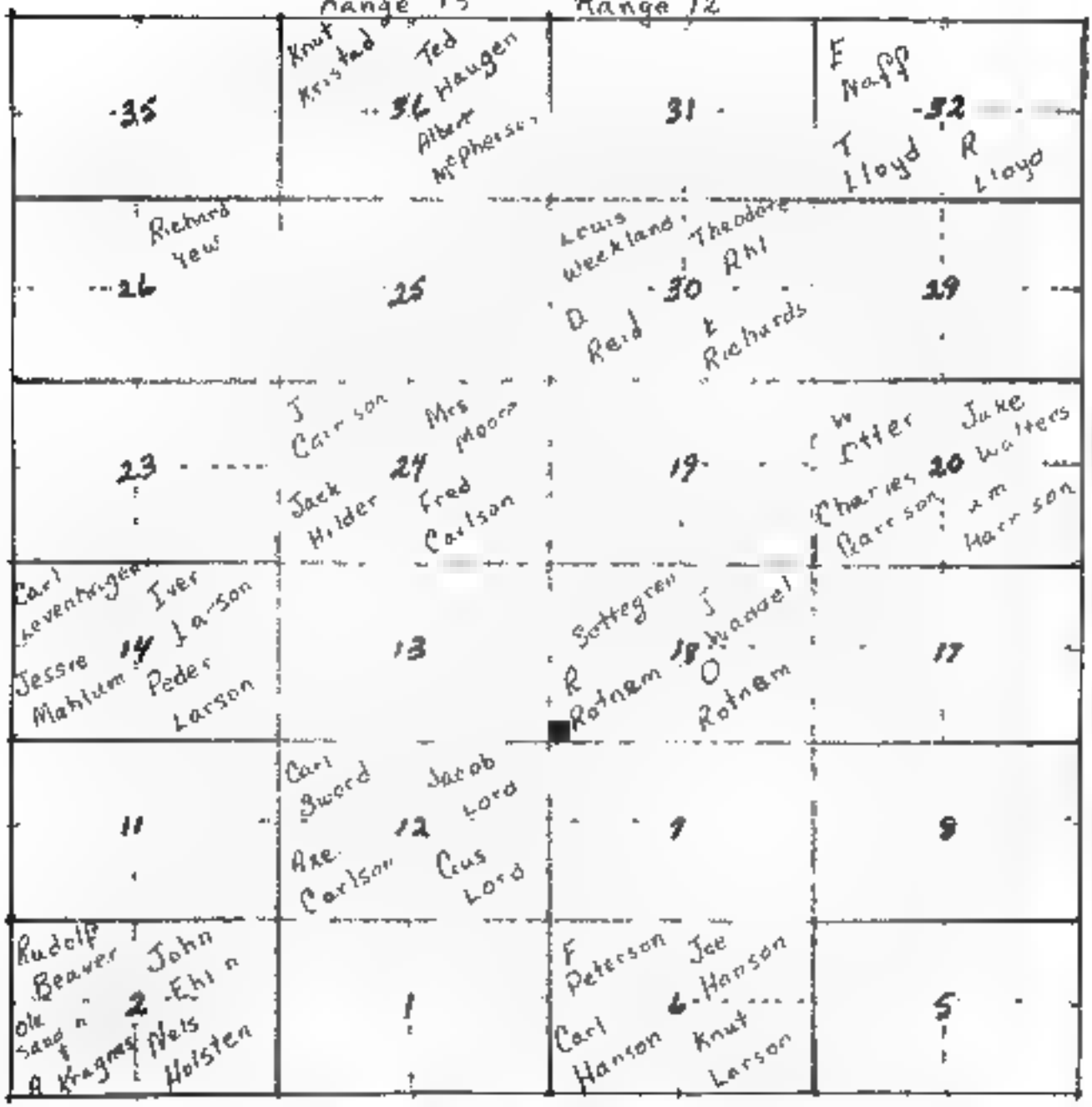
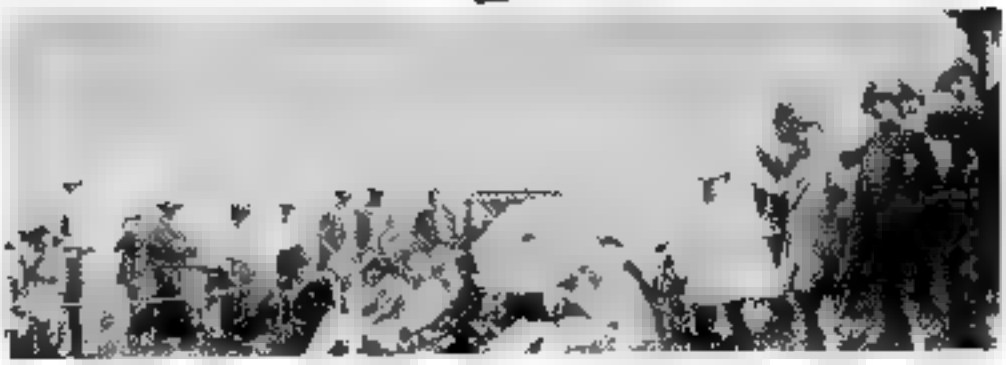
ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD MAP.

KEY

ROTHUM SCHOOL ■ S.W. I8- 36- I2.
DUCK CREEK SCHOOL ● N.W. I4- 36- I2.

MEADOW BANK HALL ★ N.W. I5- 36- I2.





Picture of a picnic held at Meadow Bank in 1929.

Range 12

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Garde<br>E Thompson 34 J Johnson | 35 | A Burman J Drummond<br>Burman 36 Schmidt |
| Geo Branscombe<br>Howard Harrison 28 Scott Branscombe<br>Alex Donald | 27 | Henry<br>24 Schmidt | 25 |
| 21 | P Nelson<br>C Nelson 22 Feglin<br>Joe Walters | 23 | J Gowan R Gowan<br>Jack Lancely 24<br>John Schmidt |
| Elmer Ah<br>Nyberg 16 Dan Morrison<br>R Young | 15 | Tromberg<br>Christianson 14 Monson<br>Christianson | 13 |
| 9 | Jack McAfee<br>Bjerke 10 Anderson | 11 | Knutson<br>Eek 12 Bringbeson<br>Gus Faust |
| Dick Messenger<br>4 Jack Messenger<br>Bert Johns | 3 | Sam Messenger<br>2 Jim Messenger<br>Jim Cannaghan | 1 |

DO YOU REMEMBER.....

I. Lowering and lifting the milk and cream in the well.

2. Carrying water into the house, then after it was used once more it had to be carried out.

3. Walking to town for the mail, or just seeing a neighbor walking to town.

4. The smell we lived with from burning gas and coal oil lamps.

5. Going to town and buying a big 5¢ ice cream cone.

6. How fast you got dressed on a cold winter morning

7. Using and making lye soap.

8. Everyone jumping into the buggy or sleigh and spending an enjoyable afternoon or evening visiting at a neighbors and waiting for an invitation was unheard of.

9. Piles of wood that needed to be split and then carried inside.

IO. The general phone ring to let everyone know of a shower, social evening or meeting.

II. Meadow Bank picnics.

I2. Making that last trip outside to the outhouse before going to bed, and how scarry it could be on a dark night.

I3. The excitement inside, when you tipped the caboose.

I4 Filling the reservour with water.

I5. Skating on the lake or Slough.

I6. Building and traveling on corduroy roads.

I7. Filling the oven with kindling for morning

I8. Whenever the horses ran away, you could always find them standing in front of the barn door.

I9. Standing by the warmth of the cook stove.

20. When the stores weren't self serve.

2I. Quilting and threshing bees.

22. Ironing all those cotton clothes with sad irons.

23. Wagon full of Indians and their families camped along the road allowances with their horses hobbled.

24. Never being blocked in after a storm, as we always had a horse that didn't have to travel only on the road.

25. All the activity at the local Blacksmith and livery barn.

26. The strawstack slowly become mushroom shaped while the cattle chewed it through the winter.

27. Going to the local hall, school or barn to a dance as a family and not knowing what a baby sitter was.

28. The shapes of the clothes after they were hung outside to freeze, then brought inside again to thaw, drip and dry.

29. Being able to pick lots of Tiger Lilies and Lady Slippers.

30. Standing around a pot bellied stove visiting.

31. Recieving nothing but homemade gifts for Christmas,that meant more to us than anything that could have been bought.

32. Mom mending, Dad reading and the children doing homework around the kitchen table, with a coal oil lamp in the center.

33. Bathing on friday nights in a laundry tub, and the whole family bathing in the same water with only a little hot water added after the next member got in.

34. Felt Socks and Felt Boots.

35. Digging and selling senaca roots.

36. Getting ice from the ice house for homemade ice cream.

37. Stooking.

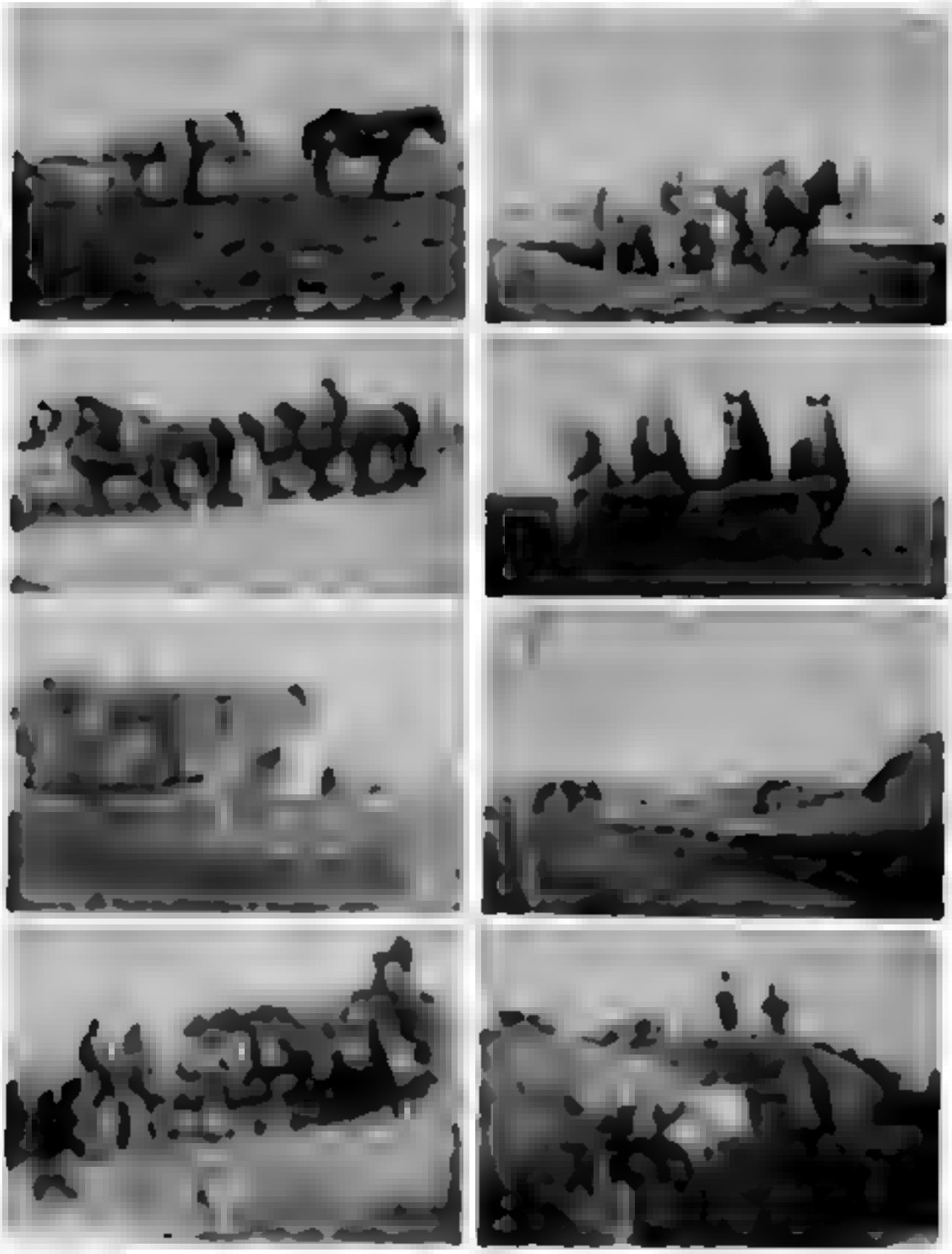
38. Climbing and sliding off sheave stacks.

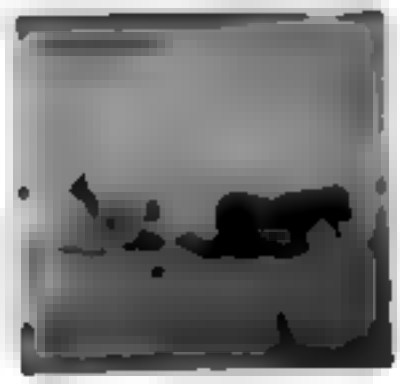
39. Jack rabbit stew.

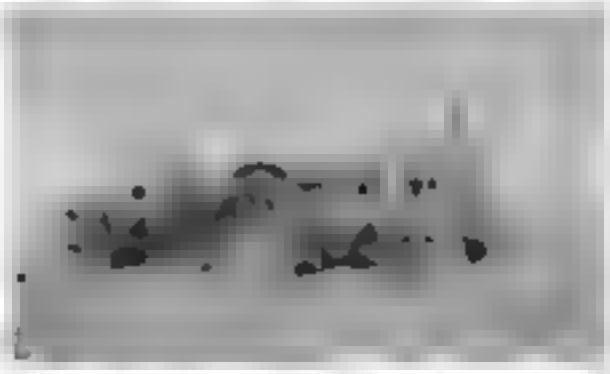
40. The churn and the scrub board.

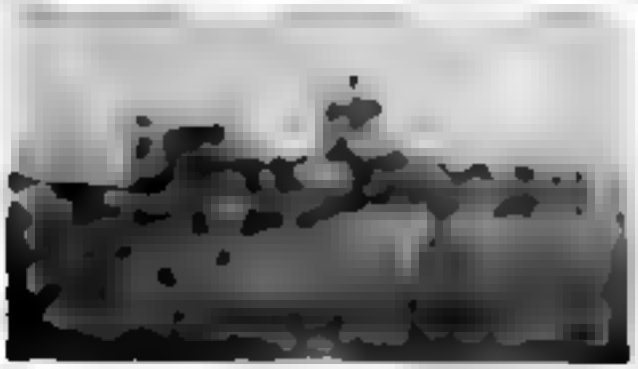
41. Spatts and britches.

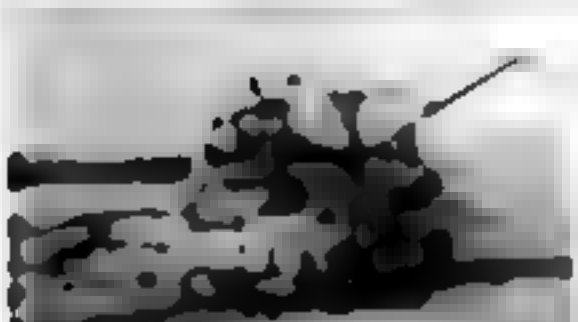
42. Horses with their oat bag and the blinders











# Elmer Ahl Family

Submitted by Clara Einarson

Dad came to Canada in the year 1904 to file on the NE¼, 36, 12. In April, 1905, Dad and my brother Henry, who was then 12 years old, built a log shack for his family. Later that same year the family came by wagon, grandmother Ahl and Dad in my mother's stead, by ox-cart via Battleford, who was 13 years old, and Wm.F., a baby of a few months.

Dad and Henry met us at Wadena with oxen and the wagon. Dad had brought some stock and machinery with him from Minnesota when he came with Oscar and Rudolph Bothun, who also brought machinery and stock.

Our first stop was at Carl Hansens as mother and grandmother felt the strain of travel. Carl and Annie were very hospitable and willing to help. They always remained our good friends.

Dad cleared more land and did more breaking. My Dad's father, Theodore Ahl came and spent his remaining years with us, a year before he died, my sister Ida was born. Grandfather died in 1910 and grandmother in 1912. My grandparents came from Sweden sometime before 1870.

Mother and Dad were married December 21, 1899 in Nebraska. Dad helped to build the Duck Creek School #2002. He also did breaking of land for his neighbors, as he had a gasoline engine and thresher with a wooden separator, similar to the one in the picture.

In the early days at dances, dad used to play the mouth organ.

During the long winters, our social events were dances, box and pie socials, where the pies and lunch boxes would be auctioned off at midnight, and the purchaser ate lunch with the lady who provided the goodies. The money raised would go to some good cause. Eric and Noel Grice played for many of the house parties. Brother Henry and William Otter played the violin.

Dad bought his first horses from Mr. Prouse at Kelvington.

Elmer Ahl Family - continued

I started school at Duck Creek in 1913 with Mr. Sanger as my first teacher. I sat with my friend Orien Gowan all the years I went to school, other friends were, Mary Burge, or Dollie, as we fondly called her, Sexton Linden, Albert Lancely and four of the Monson family, Mary, Agatha, Euphemia, and Katherine.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burge had the post office and were our close neighbors, as were the Lindens, Harrisons and John Waddell. The Meadow Bank hall was across the lake from us. Here we enjoyed many good dances and picnics. To get to the hall we used to cross the lake in a boat. In 1920 we moved to the Orpington district. Years later I married Einarson and we had three sons, Arne, Clarence and Harold. Henry married Marie Scott and had one daughter Josie. Rosa married Martin Norberg and there were three daughters to that union, Annie, Christina, and Billie.

Reuben Augustus Family

Maisie and Eavert Augustus were the children of Reuben Augustus. They lived for a short time on the NE¼, 14, 36, 12. During this time the children attended Duck Creek School.

Maisie in 1924-25 and Eavert in 1926-27. The family later moved to Kelvington where their father became editor of the Kelvington Radio.

Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring

Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring were married in July of 1916 at Beaver Flats, Saskatchewan, near Swift Current. They operated a dairy farm there for nine years, then moved to the Wadena district and then to the Rotnum area in 1934, settling on the NE¼,1, 36,13.

The Austrings had thirteen children, eleven of whom attended the Rotnum School.

Inga - Mrs. Daryll Gibbs, Billings, Montana.
Reuben - Toronto
Norman - Regina
Jeul - St. Paul, Minnesota
Raymond- Lethbridge
Evelyn - Mrs. Art Anderson, Calgary
Olive - Mrs. Howard Fransen, Langley, B.C.
June - Mrs. Jim Spady, Broadus, Montana, U.S.A.
Elmer - Toronto, Ontario
Shirley- Mrs. Andy Wilk, Saskatoon
Donald - Wadena

Mr. Austring served as a trustee on the Rotnum School board for six years. He retired from farming in the 1960's but continued to reside on the farm until his death in 1976.

Mrs. Austring now lives in Wadena. Of the forty years spent on the farm she says "They were the happiest years of my life."

## Rueben Austring

Born on June 29, 1920 at Beaver Flats, Saskatchewan. At the age of four we moved to Swift Current where my parents operated a dairy farm, "Austring's Dairy."

My schooling began in Swift Current and did not enter Rotnam until high school, Grade 10 in 1937.

My wife Ann and I have four children - two girls and two boys, we all live in Ontario. I am extensively involved in International Trading of all kinds.

## Herman Allen Family

Herman William Allen
Marjorie Almeda (Whaley)

Mr. and Mrs. Allen moved to the Rotnum district in 1932, and lived in this approximate area for 44 years. Mr. Allan farmed all his life until he retired. Mrs. Allen taught school for many years. Some of the loves of Herman's life were, trading horses or cattle and many a good deal was made.

Their family of five were a great joy to them, they were;

| | |
|---|---|
| Francis Mable | 1927 |
| Joyce Marjorie | 1929 |
| Marion Alice Roberta | 1934 |
| June Rose | 1939 |
| Garry Herman | 1944 |

Mrs. Ronald McInnis - Submitted by Francis

We were married in 1950 and had our wedding dance in the Meadow Bank Hall. We lived in Strathclair, Manitoba until 1956. Then moved to New Westminster, B.C., and here we still live.

We have two children, Ronda and Randy. Ronda married Kurt Trose in January, 1977, and Randy married Mylo Eickhart in December, 1978. They both live in New Westminster.

Mrs. Erhard Windhaber - Submitted by Marion

Joyce - Mrs. Magee has two daughters, now lives in New Westminster, B.C.
Marion - Mrs. Erhard Windhaber. We have two daughters and three sons. We now reside in Prince George, B.C.
June - Mrs. Kiland, has two sons and one daughter. They reside in Prince George.

Windhaber family continued-

Garry - wife Ruby, they have two sons and one gaughter. They reside in Prince George and Mr. Allen has his home in the same yard as Garry.

Submitted by the comittee on behalf of Brian and Curtis Anderson,

Their parents are Evelyn and Art Anderson and they resided with Grandma and Grandpa Austring while they attended Rotnum School

Brian is single and Curtis is married with a family of two childrer. He is a carpenter by trade and both boys live in Calgary.

Benjamin Avery Family.

I was the former Lavada Leepart and my parents farmed near Eyebrow Sask. At nearby Coronack, I married Benjamin Avery. Ben, as a young lad from England, had gone to sea, and later a soldier in both Wars Eventually he had taken up farming at Coronack.

With the onset of the depression and what we commonly call the "Dirty Thirties", it found the family moving north to the Meadow Bank district in September of 1931.

My brother, Leonard and I, along with my four children, and the family dog, came with our belongings in a Model T. Ben arrived on the train with the machinery, cattle and horses.

The winter was spent with Olive and Ted Ekman, my sister and her husband. From here two of the children, Ted and Rosella went to Rotnum School. In the spring the family moved to the NW¼, 10-36-12., where we lived for about sixteen years.

By now the second World War was on, and both Ben and our eldest son Ted joined the Army. I, with the help of the other children I carried on the farming.

Later, we bought a farm adjoining the Meadow Bank Hall. A new house was built. Ben passed away in 1967, but the farm still remain in the family and is farmed by the youngest son Amos. I am residing in Wadena.

Rosella (Avery) Bloom.

I attended the Duck Creek School from 1931 - 39. My teachers wer Eva Harrison, Mr. Bordson and Miss. Amy Eskelson, (Brown).

Rosella (Avery) Bloom - continued

The McInnis, Donald, Wright and Avery families made up the school enrollment. In summer we walked to school, in winter we took the horse and toboggan. Somewhere in the late thirties I can remember the month of February being 40 - 60 below the whole month. As I recall only five of us didn't miss school, Wilma Donald, Joyce and Ronald McInnis, Ted and I. We probably set a record! Ha!

In 1938-39 I had permission from Amy Eskelson to attend Duck Creek full time, while taking my grades nine and ten by correspondence. She corrected my work and gave all the assistance I needed, even though she was only paid to teach Grades one to eight. Wouldn't the unions have fun with that today?

I also recall the great part Mrs. Fred Jones played in our school, not only in the political side, but the organizing of our picnics and Christmas concerts. These two events were the highlight of the country school life. I can still see Mrs. Jones turning the handle of the old manual ice cream maker. They just don't make ice cream like that anymore.

The school would be filled to overflowing at our Christmas concerts. It was the only time in my life I have been on stage.

Ruby (Avery) Mack

My brother Amos and I began school at Duck Creek in 1929, his teacher was Mr. Bordson and I in 1930 with Amy Eskelson. Remembrances of school chums were the Moore twins, Stuart Donald, Jamie Wright and Verna McInnis.

School buses were unheard of in those days and students traveled in various ways, some walked, others rode bikes or came on horse back or buggy. In winter we travelled by horse and toboggan.

For recreation we played ball in summer and we managed to buy a ball and bat by each family donating a dime or a quarter. We would compete against the nearby schools such as Rotnum, Brand, Willow Glen and Wolverton. Some of the parents who owned cars would transport us to our games.

One of the high lights of the year was the Christmas concert. It was held in the Meadow Bank Hall and about two weeks before it was held, the students and teacher would go to the hall everyday to practise. The older students would help decorate the tree and the hall and Mrs. Gladys Lowndes would help with the music and singing.

When the snow had melted in the spring the yard became a beehive of activity, practising for the community field day with five schools competing, Duck Creek, Brand, Rotnum, Willow Glen and Wolverton.

Ruby (Avery) Mack, continued

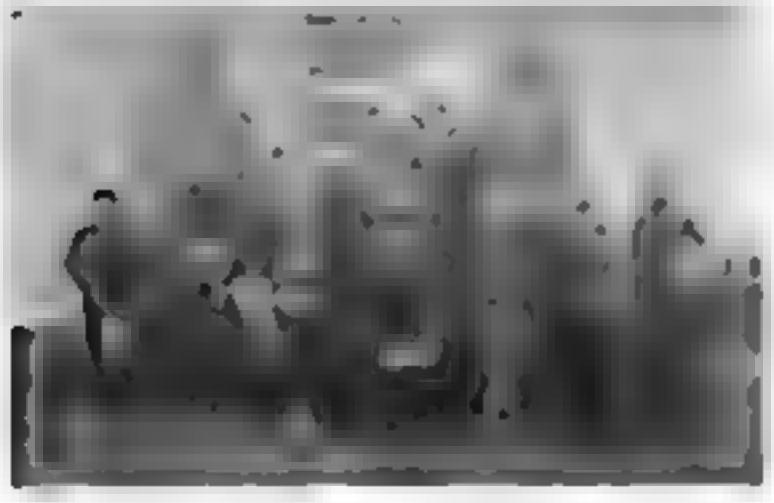
The field day was held on a clearing beside Meadow Rock lake, starting with a school parade, each school with its banner. At noon we would receive a free hot dog, a pop, drink and ice cream.

When all the events were over and the points counted the school with the most points would receive the trophy for the year. The boy and girl with the highest individual points were given an orange ribbon and a brown ribbon for the highest points in each age group. The day ended with a dance in Meadow Rock Hall.

All the students of that time received their immunization shots at the school, or hall. The doctor and a nurse would come over from Ferguson and Dr. Jamison were the doctors I remember later on, the other schools came to the hall and took part.

As you can see Meadow Rock Hall was a place of much activity. Every two weeks there was a Friday night dance, usually a public dance. Basketball games were also held there and every election day it became the polling station.

On Sunday the United Church held services every other week from spring until fall. I loved the roads. Upon a cart was built an altar where the service was held at the rear center of the service. For the Thanksgiving service the hall was decorated with vegetables, fruit of all and pies as well. These were then given to the poor. After harvest the ladies had quilting bees, a fine supper and dance. In the spring the community had an annual spring supper and dance. These two were always well attended.



This is a picture of a gathering at the school where everyone came and brought their families. Here we see Mrs. Austring bringing her lunch donation.

Don Austring

I was the seventh son of Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring. All ten of my brothers and sisters were to go through the doors of Meadow School. I was not exactly a ranger to the place, as the afternoon I think I was in grade [illegible] we were sent to the school yard. I was enjoying myself playing catch with a young

Don Austring continued

[illegible] veered off to run on its way down hitting a girl on the [illegible]. The teacher was [illegible] and [illegible] was handed out the next day when I received a [illegible] on each hand. I [illegible] strap remnant of a trace from a horse harness! I ran [illegible], during an [illegible] recess three grandsons in a [illegible], one of these for what the teacher called being saucy. Can you imagine a shy farm boy like me being saucy!!!

I [illegible], the year after my brother Jim left [illegible]. That is the year [illegible] persecution year for Ray [illegible] and [illegible] every [illegible] year in our grade were having [illegible] problems and they didn't want to be outdone by [illegible] it's equitable [illegible] and [illegible] Now that we didn't have [illegible] to protect us, we were [illegible] at least a few [illegible] places or [illegible]. The [illegible] was being dragged head first through the [illegible] with a rope and then hung from the limb of a large tree [illegible] treatment although unknown to the teacher [illegible] came to a [illegible] day when they had tied our hands behind our backs and [illegible] feet [illegible] from under us. Ray hit the frozen ground, [illegible] tree [illegible] scared out of him and began to turn a bit blue, [illegible] breath. Needless to say there were a bunch of [illegible] classmates.

[illegible] forget the day when the white horse driven by Marc[illegible] and [illegible] had its tail nearly removed by one of the [illegible] with a real short "hair do". I thought the [illegible] me at the horse so I found a piece of [illegible] in the [illegible] tied the tail back on and ran [illegible] expecting that the [illegible] place and ever made it out of the school yard. Mrs. [illegible] observed she was not a bit angry to see the horse [illegible] the yard with the tail dangling by a string.

We used to play in the hall on the [illegible] farm removing the [illegible] grain. [illegible] one cold day we had built a fire and when the hall rang for [illegible] after the noon hour we all gathered and threw [illegible] on the fire to put it out. This proved to be a mistake because the smoke that billowed up through the trees notifying the teacher of our whereabouts. That ended our activities in the school house. I can remember one [illegible] of grain [illegible] on the upper side of the [illegible], trying to dry out, after getting soaked in the dugout.

It was the habit of the pupils in the winter months to bring a can or thermos of soup to school. One day Marion Allan was [illegible] to heat her can of soup on the stove, it was in a tea or syrup can and the [illegible] was on tight, suddenly there was an explosion that almost rocked the school. The lid was blown off the can and every drop of soup was on the ceiling.

I remember [illegible] prisoners home and round home with arms of [illegible] that [illegible] frozen and it was torture. [illegible] was also in Sedley very sad to [illegible] Gordon Forman's [illegible] horse. We have three children and I have a driving [illegible] as we [illegible] and driving a [illegible] but I wonder [illegible] back, I can now appreciate the antics of school children.

June (Austring) Spady

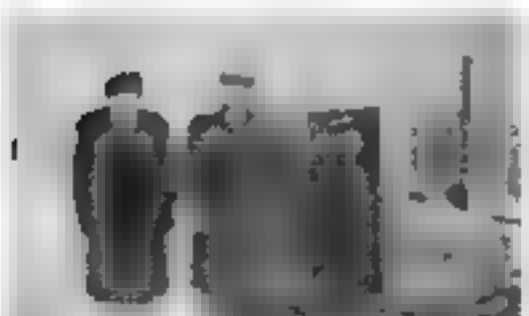
I started school at Westport near Madena, where I spent one month before moving to London in November 19[illegible]. I started school at Rothern. At that time there were seven Austring children attending Rothern School. I can recall the seven of us arriving at the school for the first time and being stared at by the other students. It would have been a much more scary experience had I not had so many brothers and sisters with me.

The next eleven years were spent at Rothern. The outstanding events were the Christmas concerts and the school parties at the end of each school year. I can still taste that homemade ice cream.

For grades VI and VII I attended a Christian high school at Two Rivers Bible Institute. After completing high school, Hal Garrison (Weirmaster) and I went into nurses training at Yorkton General Hospital from 1950 to 53. I then nursed in Madena Union Hospital from 1953 - 1954.

Bible school was next in my preparation for becoming a medical missionary. This I spent 1954 to 56 at the Prairie Bible Institute. From there I went to Choteau, Montana, where I met Jim Spady. We were married in August 1956. In June 1958, we went to Liberia as missionaries with the Sudan Interior Mission and spent the next twelve years there. In 1970 we returned to the U.S.A. and Jim is now administrator of a forty-bed nursing home at Broadus, Montana.

We have three sons, David age 15, Dale 14, and Neil 11. All in all, I have covered many miles since my days at Rothern school but fondest memories will live on forever. I have enjoyed a very rich and full life. God is so good to them that put their trust in Him.



Herbert Booth Family

Herbert and Laura Booth, along with their three sons, Alvin, Leroy and Garnet moved to the Meadow Bank district in the spring of 1948. They came to the former Jack Peters ranch [illegible] location of the farm is SW 30-36-12 W2nd.

The Booths originally came from Ontario and lived in various parts of Saskatchewan. Prior to moving to the Meadow Bank district, they farmed north of Kelvington.

[illegible]th Herbert Booth and Laura Hawkins came from farms in Ontario. Herbert was of English descent and Laura, Scottish. They were married in Ontario and had five children; three sons, Alvin, Leroy and Garnet and two daughters [illegible]. Mrs. Lawrence of Innisfail, Alberta and Merle, Mrs. Crawford of [illegible]ina.

Herbert Booth Family continued

Mr. and Mrs. Booth moved to Kelvington to retire in 1954. Garnet and his wife Agnes, reside on the home farm with their three daughters, Marilyn presently of Saskatoon, Lorraine in Grade XI and Michelle in Grade X at the Kelvington High School.

## Albert Bjerke Family

Submitted by daughter Olga Murray.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bjerke were both born in Norway and later came to the U.S.A., where they were married.

Albert came to Canada while still single, and worked on the railroad and in logging camps. He homesteaded north of Wadena on the SW¼, 36,12. While living there the five children attended Duck Creek School. It was a long walk of six miles, so it is no wonder some of them became discouraged and left school before the age to do so.

In the early days the horses were worked all day in the fields, so most people were great walkers, especially our family. They walked many miles attending Church services at the home of Helmer Wickstrom.

Some years later, Albert acquired land at Stove Creek, north of Lintlaw.

Albert Bjerke passed away and was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Hendon. Mother and Carrie walked to Hendon, carrying their garden tools to tend the grave. Sister Annie took care of Mother until she passed away.

Submitted by Dan Bjerke

My father, Albert Bjerke was a school teacher, teaching languages in Delwich, Minnesota. He sailed a lot in Norway. He met and married Olivia Erickson, and later moved to the Duck Creek area on a farm. They had five children, Carrie, Annie, Daniel, Olga and Henry.

Albert farmed his land with horses and whatever machinery they had. It was six miles to walk to school, I didn't like to walk so far, so as a result I didn't like school. I would have liked to have buses to ride like they have now. School teachers that I remember were Mrs. Palm, Mr. Lowen and Mr. MacKenzie. My best friend was a Negro boy, Columbus Skinner, whose Mother and Father farmed in the area too. They moved back to the U.S.A.

My Father used to fire guard the school grounds. Times were hard, not much money, people lived from farm produce and gardens. Many had to go to work at an early age.

Bjerke Family continued

I went to Alberta to logging camps, this was a new kind of experience for a young fellow.

My sister Annie, married Andrew Nielson of Swan River, Manitoba. Olga married Lachlan Murray of Port Coquitlam, B.C. Carrie was never married and passed away in 1976. Henry the youngest was killed overseas in 1941, in World War II. He was in the Second Division Highlanders, Eight Army.

It is hard to remember, it was a long time ago.

## Fred Burge family

Submitted by Mary Burge

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burge came to Canada from Dorset, England in 1906. Mr. Burge worked in Yorkton until 1910. That year he came to the Meadow Bank district, and filed on a homestead, the SWt 16, 16, 12. On this land he built a frame house and did the required homestead duties, breaking thirty acres in three years in order to "prove" or obtain the title.

He also built a log barn, but as often the case, he was unable to get water that was fit to drink and never did have a dependable supply of good water.

He bought a team of oxen from Yorkton, 2400 and 2200 pounds, so they could really pull a load, especially poplar roots. They would look around as though laughing when the double trees broke.

In 1919 he bought Bill Young's quarter, SE 16, 16, 12 and then SE 17, 16, 12. The Meadow Bank Post Office was at the Burgess home from 1911 to 1919 and at that time the Rural Route was established with the mail driver delivering mail to boxes along the route from Wadena to Kelvington. Carl Patrick was the last mail man on the route, driving through all kinds of weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Burge had one daughter, Mary or Dolly as she is fondly called. She and her parents moved to Wadena on retirement in 1942. They bought a home just south of the town. They both passed away in 1955. Dolly still lives in that home, visiting others and more than willing to give a helping hand to any of her neighbors.

Mary, the committee has given you the paragraph in a word of Thanks.

## Axel Carlson Family

Submitted by Ruby Johnson.

Axel was born in Bjornlunda, Sweden, in December, 1880. In 1908, as a young man he came to Canada, settling in Manitoba.

Axel Carlson family continued

Later he came to the Wadena district and in 1912 he took up his homestead on the SW¼ 12, 35, 13. That same year Axel returned to Sweden to bring his bride, Hulda, back to the homestead.

Axel, with his dry wit was always a welcome guest, and added spice to any get-together. He was one of the early trustees of the Rotnum school, although they were never fortunate enough to have children of their own to attend that school. However they were able to give of their love and opened their home to other small children.

Magna was five years old when she came to live with them. She attended school at Rotnum, but unfortunately in 1927, she became ill and passed away within a short time at the age of fourteen.

Later Ruby Wickstrom came to live with them and attended Rotnum School in 1935. She later married a Rose Valley farmer, Magnus Johnson and they are now retired and live in town.

Her sister, Birdie, also spent some years with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlson will be remembered for owning one of the first classy Model T Ford coupes in the district.

In 1949 the Carlsons returned to Bjornlunda, Sweden to live. Axel passed away in 1958 and Hulda in 1967.

## Ole Christianson Family

Submitted by Violet Brady

My parents, Ole and Nettie Christianson, were both born in Norway. Father's name was Alfred, but everyone called him Ole. They emigrated from Norway to the Langham area, and later to the Hendon district. They took up residence on Sec. 23, 36, 13, and continued to farm which was the only occupation Father had been interested in since a boy.

Allan and I were the only children. While I would not remember, I have since learned that Mrs. Sven Torgerson was the midwife who assisted at my birth. The Torgersons were our neighbors for many years.

My brother and I have both attended Rotnum School, and I have memories of riding a white horse named Daisy. Some of my classmates were Eileen and Margaret Evenson, Alida, Luella and Evangeline Mahlum, Sybil Garrison and Francis Kiland

I married Kirk Brady of Aylsham and we have four children. We now live in Saskatoon. Allan married Eunice Kidd and has three daughters.

## John Coates Family

John William Coates came to Canada in 1913. In 1916 he joined the 22nd. battalion in Winnipeg and served overseas. After his discharge from the Forces in 1922, he came to Kelvington and settled on a farm in the Meadow Bank area. In 1923 he married Florence Carr of England, in Wadena. They had two sons, Edward Joseph and Raymond Derrick. On December 16, 1939, Florence died following a short illness. She played a very active roll in the Ladies Aid and was a very dear friend to all the people she came in contact with.

Edward married Merle Griffith of Wadena on his return from service overseas in the Second World War and is now farming the old homestead. Raymond lives in Yorkton.

In 1941, Jack married Christina Beaton of Bladworth. They had five children, Isabelle, Saskatoon; Eldon, Kelvington, Anne (Mrs. Bob Moyes) Estevan; Carol (Mrs. Larry Miller)and Wayne, both living in Cranbrook, B.C.

Jack Coates passed away on October 6, 1974 and was buried in Kelvington. Christina lives in Kelvington.

## Ted Coates

Submitted by Teddy Coates

Edward Joseph Coates (Teddy) was born while the Jack Coates family lived on the Miller farm, the present John Minken farm. Later the family purchased the Sanford farm and moved there.

On leaving school Teddy had an interest in farming and as a result he worked in the Meadow Bank and Kelvington areas on several farms.

In the year 1944, he enlisted for service overseas with the Regina Rifle Regiment. He returned in the year 1946 to the Meadow Bank area, and purchased the former Art Nystrom farm near his Dad's and began farming.

Ted and Merle Griffeth of Wadena were married in 1952 and they have two children, a son Randy and a daughter Florence and a grandson Jody.

Randy is presently employed in Edmonton and Florence (Christianson) resides on a farm west of Hendon. They have a son Jody.

In 1956, Teddy purchased his father's farm and lived there for ten years. He then purchased the Fred Prybilski farm and is now residing there. He has been a councillor for the R. M. of Sasman for a number of years. Raising Angus cattle has been one of his interests for quite sometime along with having an interest in 4-H Club activities.

Ted Coates continued.

Here is a typical scene in the days long ago. This is Mrs. Coates and her two small sons helping with the threshing. To some of us these were the times to look forward to. I can't help but think that it must have been hard work, Mothers had to take their children with them to the fields and barns, as they had to do the chores while the man was harvesting.

Mrs. Coates was an avid quilter, she stitched along with the rest of the ladies. They found this a very good way to get together and visit.

Raymond Coates

Raymond Derrik Coates was born while the Jack Coates family lived on the Miller farm. After leaving school he worked on several farms in the Meadow Bank and Kelvington areas.

He farmed the Coates home place for three year, 1956-59, then worked in Lockie's Tire shop in Kelvington for three years. The Shop was sold and Raymond worked under the new management until 1[illegible]. He moved to Yorkton and worked for Kelly Springfield Tire until 19[illegible]. He was employed on a farm near Yorkton for two years.

He is presently working for the city of Yorkton.

Raymond and his wife Laura live at [illegible] Myrtle Avenue, Yorkton. They make their annual journey to the Meadow Bank district for visiting and get-togethers.

## Ernest Davis Family

Submitted by Mary Leitch

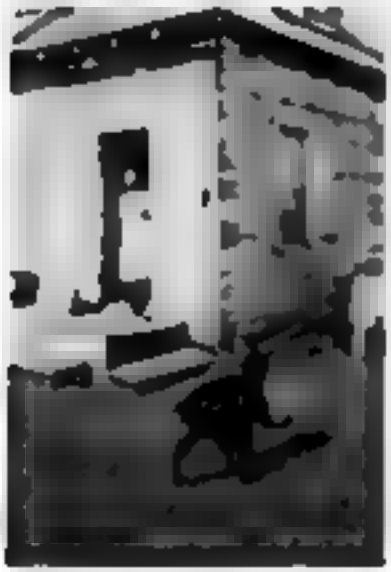
Ernie or "Doc" Davis as he was fondly called, came with his wife from [illegible], Saskatchewan, in the 1910's. He lived on the NE¼, 7, 16, 12, near the Rotnum School.

They had one child an adopted daughter Margaret, now Mrs. Fred McLeod of Parkvilla, B. C.

Mr. Davis was a self trained veterinary. In the 1910's there was an outbreak of sleeping sickness among the horses and he managed to save the lives of many of these horses by his treatments. Every day he would make his rounds with a team and Bennett buggy.

As their home was within walking distance of Rotnum school, many teachers made this home their boarding place.

Pictured here is one of the teachers that stayed at the home of the Davises. Many a happy hour was spent at the side of the old pot bellied stove, there would be a chair on each side of the comfortable warmth. Mrs. Davis plied her work around the kitchen, she went about her chores with a happy, cheerful smile.



Mickie

Neighbours and friends remember their dog named Mickie. He was so well trained, he was able to save Mr. and Mrs. Davis a lot of steps. He would bring his own food dish as well as the one for the cats. If Mr. Davis needed a hammer or wrench, he would call out and Mrs. Davis would hand the tool over to Mickie to be delivered.

Mr. Davis loved children, and always carried peppermint candy in his pocket to share with them.

Their greatest recreation was a good game of crokinole, which with all the practice he had, he could just about beat anyone.

They were just one of the many neighbors that we had around the area that gave everyone many happy memories.

When the time came for retirement, they moved their house into Hendon and both passed away a few years later.

## Alfred Derbyshire Family

Submitted by George Derbyshire

Alfred Derbyshire and his wife were both born in England. Alfred was orphaned when he was six years old, and was raised by Dr. Benardos Homes in London. When he was sixteen years old he was sent to Canada to the Benardo farms at Russell, Manitoba.

He stayed in the Russell area until 1905 when he came to Saskatchewan and took a homestead in the Nut Lake district. He filed on the NW¼ 2, 36, 12.

Edith Davies came to Canada in 1911 and married Alfred Derbyshire in 1915. George and Gertrude were born on the homestead at Nut Lake.

In 1919 Mr. Derbyshire drove a school van for the Batestown School district, making the round trip every day from Nut Lake to Kelvington, as there was no school at Batestown at that time.

About 1920, he sold the homestead to the Soldier Settlement Board, and bought the SW¼ 22, 37, 12 from Martin Burman. There Lila, Jessie and Jim were born.

This farm was surrounded by schools, all at least five miles from our home. There were children from close to home going to Duck Creek that was where we attended, it was five miles from home. I must say we did not learn very much. As a small child, riding five miles on an old pony, we were too tired to study.

I still remember my first teacher, Henry Lowen, he was a good teacher, but very strict. I was scared stiff most of the time. Then we had Percy Heffren, we got along good with him, but we did not learn too much, as we were still too tired. Then there was Mrs. Palm, she was a very good teacher and we got along good with her.

It is nice to meet and visit with the people I went to school with at Duck Creek. Some of them are away from home or this area, but they do get back at times and it is great to visit with them.

In 1926, Brand school was built just one mile from our home, we were happy to attend so close to our home.

I started farming on my own in 1931, in the Brand district. I married Clarice Watt in 1939, and we moved to the Batestown district in 1941 and farmed there until 1976 when we sold the farm and retired in Kelvington.

We raised a family of five, two girls and three boys.

## Alexander Donald Family

his apprenticeship.

and set out for their homesteads. However it rained for two days, the first night on the road they crawled into a haystack, wet clothes and all, to try to get some sleep. They spent the night peeking out of holes looking for daylight. They were thankful for the haystack as what blankets they had were covering their flour and oatmeal. The trip itself was quite an ordeal. The team of oxen were green and would head for the biggest slough to get away from mosquitoes. They had to get into the slough themselves and use brute strength to get the oxen back on the trail.

It took two days to arrive at the spot where they had built their shacks the previous year, only to find them to ranchers in the area. The animals had raided them trying to brush off the mosquitoes, which were literally in clouds in those days.

The whole countryside was bush and slough. However there was dry land in between, and they proceeded to build shacks on their respective homesteads, three in all, one for each of them. They were built with poplar poles standing upright, 10'x 12', with a sod roof tered them with clay. They thought they had done a tremendous job as they had only hammer, nails and an axe.

Alex Donald Family continued

Upon returning to their homesteads the following spring, they found much to their disappointment, the rains had washed away a lot of the river and there were holes throughout. Sure that built a shed for the oxen on Scott Pennycuick's place, and proceeded to break five acres on each homestead. Now the task to put up hay to winter the oxen. They borrowed a scythe from a neighbor. For forks they went to the bush and cut wishbones with two prongs, peeled and dried them. These,they used for stacking hay.

The fall of 1904 - 05 settlers poured into the country. Every homestead that was surveyed at that time was taken. Many of these first settlers did not stay, but moved out for what they hoped were greener pastures.

The winters of 1904 - 05, they spent on their homesteads after getting from the harvest in Manitoba. Hopefully with enough money to carry them through the winter and summer. During those early days they thrived on duck eggs in the early summer and rabbit stew in the winter. That first winter they bought a quarter of beef. Having no better place to store it they put it on top of the sod roof. The sparrows and woodpeckers roosted on it as well as the wind blew it and covering the beef with dirt from the sod. The meat was tough & unpalatable and gritty. They ate it, grit and all, not realizing that if grit was good for hens, a little wouldn't do them any harm.

Before they moved Neil Ferguson a sleigh had to be built from spare ore. They used this sleigh for two or three winters. In order to earn money for the coming season Dad spent several winters in the bush approximately eighty miles north working for the Rat Portage Lumber Company. The wages were $30.00 to $35.00 a month. If your work was not satisfactory you got a fired and someone else took your place. At best, you could expect hay for a bed and supply your own blankets with lots of lice thrown in as a bonus.

In 1907, Dad and Jim Ferguson bought a team of horses which had been shipped into Alfred with some settlers effects. That was the last of the oxen. In the summer of 1912 he built one of the first frame buildings, it consisted of two rooms. That winter he went back to Scotland. He said he was prospecting for a different kind of a partner, he got the girl of his dreams, Catherine Reader. At first a.d Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harrison they were married on April 11, 1913. Dad made his own wedding cake.

Catherine Donald was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1891. Before emigrating to Canada she worked in a shop in Edinburgh where they sold soft goods. She earned eight shillings a week. She had her twenty-first birthday on the ship coming to Canada. There were other brides & so sailing to the new land to be married. The voyage was very rough, as they were tossed from side to side nearly everyone suffered from sea sickness. And girls remarked,"All this for a man".

Alex Donald family continued

Upon arriving at Wadena, Dad met Mother with a team and sleigh. It was the spring of the year. For twenty miles they criss-crossed around sloughs, picking their way across the prairie. Mother thought these were very funny roads. Having lived all her life in the city, she had very little knowledge of her future as a homesteader's wife. She had never even seen bread baked, but Dad soon taught her. She became a very good cook.

By this time they had a three roomed house, seven head of cattle and a team of horses. There was no well on the farm so for seven years it was necessary to use water from the lake, hauling it for the livestock. Water for the calves and household use was obtained by melting snow in tubs on the stove. Clothes were washed on a board without a wringer. In the summer the water was often hard and had to be softened with ashes. There were no neighbors for miles, weeks would go by without seeing another woman. Being accustomed to the hustle and bustle of the city Mother found the silence of the prairie overpowering, silence being broken only by the howl of a coyote.

Grain had to be hauled to Wadena. Dad would leave home very early in the morning, before daylight, having rabbited the night before. He wouldn't return until after midnight, but Mother always waited up for him and had a hot meal ready. In order to keep warm the men usually walked or ran behind the sleighs. However, one neighbor Olaf Linden always sat in the sleigh box, and endured the cold. My dad asked him why he didn't get off to walk, he replied, "I'd rather sit and freeze like a man than run behind like a dog".

There were no doctors for miles and no hospitals. A midwife [illegible] Mother, attended our Mother for the first [illegible] children, namely Rena and Kenneth. Muriel, Wilma, Jean and Earl were born in Wadena.

As time went on Dad purchased five other [illegible] of land raised a fair sized herd of cattle and owned from twenty to thirty horses. In later years he had a herd of pure bred Jersey cows, milking ten to fifteen cows daily. We girls always said Dad made good use of his daughters for as the last one left home he bought a milking machine.

Dad remained on the farm almost forty years. He saw many changes from oxen to horses, cars, tractors, [illegible] and combines. He, like the other pioneers we had to [illegible] faced many hardships and setbacks, but never gave up. He had pride and determination. His motto was "Persevere for perseverance overcometh difficulties". This may have been the motto of many of the pioneers for without perseverance they would not have remained to develop this country as it is today.

Dad passed away in [illegible] after [illegible] death in [illegible], Mother was unable to live alone on the farm, [illegible] the farm was sold to Hyman Hahn, having lived first and [illegible] same place, seeing her children born and raised there. Dad had planted and

Alex Donald family continued

watched so many trees grow to maturity, it was not easy for Mother to leave so many memories behind. But her pioneer spirit prevailed, she moved to a new home in Kelvington, where she still resides.

Submitted by Rena (Donald) Bien

Rena was born on the SE¼ 28, 36, 12, eldest of the Sandy Donald family.

In the spring of 1922, Mother took four of us children home to Scotland for one year. I started to school at Dr. Neil's in Edinburgh, which is still being used as a school. My attendance was poor as I seemed to catch everything, measles etc. ending up with bronchial pneumonia.

On our return in 1921, Ronnie and I started to school at Duck Creek. Archie Seed drove our horse and buggy to school, until we were able to handle a horse. One day after we were driving ourselves, two horse back riders raced up behind, scared our horse and it ran away. Ronnie fell out of the buggy, the wheel went over his neck. After that he was called "Rubber Neck".

My first teacher was Mr. Philben, followed by Henry Lowen, Miss Mcmillan, Mrs. Pain, who taught the boys and girls to knit. Mr. McKenzie who got the girls to pick wild flowers and grasses to send to his lady friend. In return she sent a large box of home baking. We got a holiday from school to have a picnic. Along came the School Inspector. I never heard what his report was. This teacher was followed by Nona McKay who we all liked very much. I wrote my Grade VIII then.

One of the highlights of our school years was our annual Christmas Concert. We all got new dresses, our hair curled. We especially looked forward to Santa Claus coming, he was played by Mr. John Lancley, the best ever.

Some of the pupils I remember were Archie Seed, Sam and Albert Lancley Mac and Connie Jones, Frank Johns, Phyllis Leighton, Percy and Thurlow Gosnay, Lena and Phillip Drummond, Eleanor and Em Fuller, Carrie, Annie and Jan Mierle, Irene Kiel, Archie, John and Edith Koch, Willie Sanford, Dorothy Weaver and Cora Lindsay, Phyllis and Bert Parish.

The older boys gave us a rough time chasing us with dead roosters and mice. We competed each other on having the best garden, they were grown on the fire guard. Some of the games I remember were Fox and Geese out in the snow and Pump, Pump, Full Away.

Rena (Donald) Bien continued

I stayed home for several years. Our pleasures were Church, Young Peoples, Ladies Aid, putting on plays, dances, quilting bees and visiting.

In 1939, I married Herb Bien, who came to the district as a hired man from Shamrock. Our first home was in Flin Flon where we lived until 1947. While in Flin Flon we adopted our daughter Dianne Thompson who lives at Meadow Lake. She has two daughters, Tannis and Dara.

After leaving Flin Flon we came back and built a house in Dad's yard. In 1951 we moved to Hendon where Herb was Co-op Manager until 1975. We spent our spare time, the last two years, building our retirement home in Kelvington, where we now reside.

Submitted by Kenneth Donald.

Kenneth (Ken) Donald was born May 24, 1917, second in a family of six, to Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Donald of the Meadow Bank district.

He attended Duck Creek School from 1923 - 31, later remaining at home to help with the work on the farm of which there was plenty. They often worked three outfits of horses in the fields at one time. In time Ken and his brother Stuart gradually took over the farm work. Ken purchased land of his own, but remained at home.

In 1954, he met and married Mrs. Irene Zimmer (nee Hagen) of Rose Valley. He moved to the Nut Lake district, where they still live and are active in mixed farming. Ken learned to love horses at a very early age, and they became his hobby, he still raises a few good horses to enjoy.

In 1955, their son Allister was born, making a family of five children. They are all on their own now, but come home often to visit, much to the joy of their parents.

Their family consists of Dianne and Mark Thorpe and Shanha of Regina; Gary and Maureen Zimmer, Cameron and Patrick of Warman; Maureen and Bob Schindelka of New Westminster, B.C; Bartley and Nicole Zimmer and Chantal of Saskatoon and Allister of Saskatoon.

The Ken Donalds live on S.W. 22, 36, 12.

Submitted by Muriel (Donald) Geck

Remembering back to school years can be very vague in places, and prominent in others. Travelling the three miles to Duck Creek School will never be forgotten, the dirt roads and mud, trails through fields and pastures, the sloughs and the snowbanks during winter months. Sometimes we walked or drove a horse or team, whichever was available.

Muriel (Donald) Geck continued

If we had one horse, it was hitched to buggy or bobsleigh or a team that were hitched to a roller or disk and we plodded up the neighbour's lane or down the way. Under these travelling conditions it was not without many mishaps and frustrations. Having an upset in the open buggy was not unknown, the horses running off or a broken down. Thanks to good neighbours along the way (Andrew McAllister or Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hare that lived just north of the school) they would come to our rescue.

When coming home from school, through Mrs. Pare's yard was [illegible] trying to see if she could offer us something to eat, sometimes in exchange for giving up her cup or two, left in the cupboard as she was afraid of snakes. Mrs. [illegible] would often have a piece of freshly baked bread as it prepared it was delicious, eating it in berry season [illegible] home, we would head for Mrs. [illegible]'s strawberry patch. Berries have never compared with those, for as our parents had stomache, a more exciting or better would chastise us the stained teeth and clothing was a give-away, impossible to hide.

The one incident which remains very clear in my mind was the day [illegible]'s team ran off. Jane and I were carrying a ride to the north corner on our way home from school with Ab and Phil. Jim drove a spanky team of horses on the buggy. We were standing behind the seat going at a great speed with others following behind. As we went through a low spot the pole of the buggy dropped down and ran into the ground throwing the buggy in the air, landing upside down. The team took off and ran away home. Phil was thrown into the air and was heard screaming. The kids all gathered around poor Phil, waiting for him to rise up. They had a short vacation there until someone saw me feet sticking out from under the buggy. The girls had been thrown out of me, so I was [illegible] to [illegible] or "help". Jim [illegible] and [illegible] Bell were following behind with a load horses on a cart. I think Jim took us home and [illegible] but they took Phil, and I was home within the last ten or three years Phil, and I were very, very [illegible] Phil didn't put here to school for two years and as he said, "I've never been right since".

The returning home after my first day at school I remember to [illegible] my parents that there was a new pupil coming to school. The new pupil [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Muriel (Donald) Geck continued 22

There are wonderful memories of Mona McKay's teaching years with us. I was in grade four on her arrival. One big achievement, she managed to stop me chewing my finger nails. I admired her nails so much and would think, "if I could only have finger nails and polished like Miss McKay's". Possibly it was my age during her teaching years with us, but I always thought she was quite special, and all our good old Christmas concerts, and our anticipation for Santa Claus. Mr. Lancely played the part, and no one was ever able to replace him.

The last two years at Duck Creek School, I was able to take grades 9 and 10 by correspondence, Eva Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. Bordsen helped me whenever I was in need of assistance. I went to Wadena High School for grades 11 and 12. I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Scott Branscombe, they were memorable years.

After completing High School, I was off to work, mostly clerking and office work for Burns Company. In 1948, I married Norman Geck, we farm south of Kelvington and have one son, Grant, who is at home farming.

Submitted by Wilma (Donald) Lovdahl

My years as a student at Duck Creek numbered more than the average student, for not only did I take grades 1 to 8, but I took grades 9, 10, and 11 by correspondence. However, my association with Duck Creek didn't end there. For each year till I was married, I helped the teachers with their annual Christmas Concerts.

My memories of those years are many, some happy, some sad, some humorous and some "just are".

How well I remember our recess and noon hour softball and football games. It must have been "Tackle Football" for as I can recall, I usually ended up on the bottom of the heap. When the noon bell rang we would all troop in covered with snow from head to toe. There was always "Pump, Pump, Pull-away", "Prisoner's Base", "Fox and Goose", or "Last Couple Out".

Our modes of travel were varied, depending on the season. Generally in the winter, it was horse and toboggan, but when there were four of us attending school, we drove a team and cutter. My brother Ken delighted in taking us at top speed over the pitch holes, more than once leaving the cutter box behind, much to the annoyance of Dad who would have to repair it. In the spring the roads would be breaking up, so we had to ride horseback for two or three weeks. Not only did we have to carry our own lunch, but feed for our horses and any books we may have. These we used to put in a bag, usually a sugar bag and tie it around our necks and shoulder. We always made a big deal about our horses needing water at noon from a nearby slough. This was a good excuse for a horse race back to school. The competition was keen and the winner carried a lot of prestige. Sometimes we walked to school a

distance of three miles and sometimes we had a cart or buggy. Everyone had a school horse.

Many a winters day we would arrive at school with frozen faces and frozen dinners. I can remember toasting our sandwiches on the stove pipe to thaw them out. Sometimes each family would take turns to bring a gallon of milk which we would heat in a bottle of hot water to make cocoa. In the really cold days we would sit around the heater, roasting one side and freezing the other. The pupils whose desk was nearest the heater were always assured at least of a hot neck and ears. Our fingers would be so numb we couldn't write till the school house warmed. The winter of 1918-19 was extremely cold. Nothing was not like it is now. There were no parkas, I wore a pair of felt boots, with at least three pair of woollen socks inside so my feet were warm. I froze my face everyday for three weeks. In spots my skin was like leather. There were only five pupils at school for those three weeks. Looking back I'm not sure if we were the tough ones or the foolish ones, I doubt very much if we acquired much knowledge those cold days.

I went right from Grade 1 to 4 with Nana Wiley as my teacher. She left our school in winters end and well I recall that day. All the girls were crying. I think we thought we were losing our mother. Miss Wiley even kissed the boys goodbye. What a dramatic day! No one ever kissed anyone at school.

After I completed high school, Joyce Warnes taught Duck Creek for two years. We established a lifetime friendship. I was helping my parents on the farm those years, for it was war time and help was hard to get. The many activities Joyce and I thought up by way of entertainment. We had a saying "at least we are original".

Each winter the young people of the district would put on a three-act play. Our star comedian was Harry Linden--even when he wasn't supposed to be funny. But when Joyce and I offered to hold up the blanket for him as a dressing room he protested profusely.

In June 1931 Nels Lovdahl and I were married at our home on the farm. We have three children, all living in British Columbia. David is an Engineer with the Ministry of Environment at Kelowna Sandra married Pe : Nelson, with the R CMP Their home at present is in Terrace where she is nursing. Peggie married David Russell, who is also with the R CMP For several years she taught primary grades in British Columbia, but is now devoting her time as a homemaker and mother. They have one small son, Quinn Alexander.

As one most lovingly recalls those school years, I suppose by today's standards they were hard. But perhaps it wasn't all bad. We learned to cope with most anything the environment handed us and to make the best of it. I don't remember ever having to search for my identity-- I just was.

Wilma (Donald) Lovdahl continued

As I look back I realise what a large part the country school, our classmates and teachers played in our lives. We spent more awake hours in the schools than we did in our homes. Summing it all up....perhaps not too many of us became rich or famous, still I think not only Duck Creek #2002, but all similar country schools can nestle down in the annals of time and say "a job well done."

Submitted by Jean(Donald) Brownlee.

Jean is the fifth child born to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Donald. She grew up on the family farm in the Meadow Bank district and attended school at Duck Creek for grades one to ten. During those years my teachers were, Miss Harrison, Mr. Bordson, Miss Lakelson, Mr. Leitch and Miss Maynes.

We had a lot of good times at our country school and our annual Christmas Concert was the highlight of the year. Since this event took place in the Meadow Bank Hall, we were permitted to skip afternoon classes and go to the hall for a dress rehearsal.

In those years, children were undaunted by the severe winter weather, but then how could one feel cold while participating in a rowdy game of football or Fox and Goose. With the arrival of spring, came Arbor Day, when we spent the entire day in the school yard, planting trees and raking and cleaning. The big treat was roasting potatoes in the ashes of the bonfire--how good they tasted--even the burnt ones.

After completing my ten years at country school, I took my grade eleven and twelve in the Kelvington High School. Following my graduation I was employed at the Co-op Store in Kelvington and later at Al and Mary LeShave's Ladies Wear.

In 1940 I married Ian Brownlee and since that time we have been farming. We have a family of three.

After graduating from High School, Bruce spent one winter working in British Columbia in a lumber camp, and several other winters working in the Northwest Territories with [illegible] Exploration. He now farms with Ian.

Shelley completed her grade twelve and spent one year at University, then worked in a Photo Studio and Nursing Home in Saskatoon. She married Russell Fesire and they have two children, Shayne and Marni.

Pattie is in grade eleven and upon completion of grade twelve plans to train in the vocation of her choice.

I am the "chief cook and bottle washer " at the Brownlee residence. Spring through fall, I serve as the official farm "Go-Fer" — you know "go for" repairs, go for dinner, the fuel, the truck and auger, etc. etc.

[redacted]

Mr. Jack Drummond

[redacted] stead in central Saskatchewan.

[redacted]

Submitted by Dorothy Drew St Goddard (Evans)

I was born to Sam and Mary Rose Evans (Genaille) and one of eight children. My father farmed, and I with my older brother and sisters, attended Potnum School. I also had a half-brother, Joe Gillis who never lived with us, but was raised by his grandparents. So never took the Evans name. His grandfather, Antoine Genaille, who raised him, was a kindly, unassuming man with great strength of character.

The following excerpts of Antoine's were submitted by Mr. Cliff Lee of Hendon.

Antoine was born in the year 1836 at Ile La Crosse, he had a colorful life, hauling mail, freighting and was a factor at the Hudson Bay Post at Nut Lake, north west of Kelvington.

Antoine hauled mail from Fort Garry (Winnipeg) to Edmonton, also freighted the first Printing Press over the same route by dog team. He made trips with the mail on foot as a runner.

He was a man of great stamina, having broke trail for forty miles on snow shoes and made forty miles on trail with dogs in the one day.

One time a number of Hudson Bay men were going by sleigh from the Nut Lake Post to the Fort Livingstone Post, (Pelly). This time the trip was being made by horse and Antoine figuring the horses were too slow, decided to go on foot alone. When the party arrived with their horses, they were surprised to find that Antoine had arrived already at the post well ahead of them.

My father, Bob Lee, told me about Antoine freighting from Fadena to his Post by dogs. He would come the first ten miles to my dad's then tie up the dogs, the lead dog in one corner and the wheel dog in the other corner of the shack, that way there was no fight.

He served as a guide for the N.W.M.P. during the rebellion, while crossing the plains by buckboard during the rebellion, in the company of a Mr. Dewdney, they ran short of food, so Antoine killed a skunk. Mr. Dewdney did not relish the thought of eating a skunk, so declined but hunger got the best of him and he decided to try some.

About then the Indians spotted the buckboard and took after them. When the shooting began, Mr. Dewdney became frightened and crawled to the bottom of the buckboard, while Antoine handled the team with one hand and the rifle with the other.

This same Mr. Dewdney later became Lieut. Governor of Saskatchewan.

## Samuel Evans

Sam Evans came to the Rotnum District in the early 1920's or around 1919. He was very instrumental in helping to organise the Rotnum School District. Sam was the secretary of the committee to get the school built.

The family consisted of John, Dorothy, Gwen, Sam Jr., Bill, Lizzie, Mary and George.

They lived on Sec. SW 6, 36, 12. Mr. Evans was a veteran.

The family went to Duck Creek school.

## Anna Evenson Family

Mrs. Anna Evenson and three children, Edward, Clara and Bennie, moved to the district in 1912 and settled on the farm next to the Holstons, (NW 2, 36, 13). Bennie was about 12 years when they arrived. He attended school in Victoria Park for a time, then went back to Max, North Dakota, where he attended school and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He returned to his Mother's farm in Canada.

In 1924 Bennie Evenson and Dollie Halsten were married and lived on the Evenson farm. They bought the land in 1926.

Bennie served on the Rotnum School Board for many years. In those days the district people did the upkeep and repairs on the school in order to save money. Bennie spent many hours helping with this job. His wife had the job of scrubbing the floors for a year or more.

Dollie and Bennie attended the Lutheran Church and Dollie has always been interested and active in the Ladies Aid.

They had five children, Margret, Eileen, Gordon, Norman and Jean. They all had their elementary schooling at Rotnum, except Gordon who was an invalid from birth.

Anna's three children

Benny Evenson's family

Ben Evenson family continued

Margret Evenson became a teacher and has now taught at various places in Saskatchewan for thirty-one years. She married Lloyd Bucknum from Springside in 1951. They have one daughter Lynn of Edmonton, Alberta. Lynn remembers attending Rotnum School for one week while she visited her grandparents.

In 1965 Bennie Evenson was instantly killed in a tractor accident, the family farm was purchased by Lloyd and Margret.

Dollie Evenson has her home in the same yard. Her home is the old Rotnum teacherage, but she had two rooms built on and has made other renovations. She lives here during the summers and spends her winters in Alberta and British Columbia.

Eileen Evenson worked as a telephone operator in Wadena and Canora for many years. She married Ernie Samuels of Canora in 1949. They have two daughters, Linda in Saskatoon and Cheryl of Kinistino. Eileen and Ernie have lived in Calgary for the past seven years. Eileen as done secretarial work since moving to Calgary.

Norman Evenson went to work on oil wells with his uncle when he left home. He married Maxine Carlson in 1959. They have two girls, Shannon and Charlene. They now live in Youbou, B.C., where Norman is employed at the plywood mill.

Jean Evenson went to Winnipeg to work, there she met and married Cecil Smith. They have six children, Cecil Jr., Gail, Dale, Donna, Lorne and Sandra. They have lived in Calgary for the past fifteen years or more.

The Evenson children all remember that ½ mile walk to school. They walked in summer and in winter rode horseback, used a toboggan, rode on a stone boat, or in a cutter. Margaret and Eileen walked one whole winter.

## Flostrand Family

In 1927, Svein Flostrand was immigrated from Norway to the Rotnum district. In 1928, Arnie followed him. They both worked on elevator construction during the summer. They bought land, NE 11, 36, 14, and started farming.

In 1930, John Flostrand and father Hans arrived. They all lived on the farm together. In 1934 or 35, John and Svein moved away, and their father Hans, returned to Norway.

Arne married Mabel Lindstrom who had been a teacher at Rotnum School during 1932-33. They lived on the farm till 1938 when they sold to the Tweidt Brothers.

## Fuller Family

Submitted by Alice Mae Fuller

Father - Larry Fuller (English). Rancher in Chicago. Did not reside in Canada.
Mother - Alice Fuller (English). Nee Barker, Came from Chicago in the spring of 1913 with 3 small children.
Brothers - Lawrence Ernest Fuller
- Fuhrman Fuller (died in Chicago at 2 years of age)
Sisters - Helen Eleanor Fuller (Whyte)
- Rose Esther Burman (½ sister, Purves).

Farm location - four miles west of Kelvington

Schooling - Duck Creek. The teachers I remember are Mrs. Bob McGowan, and Mrs. Billy McQuarry. My school friends were Oliva Gowan, Caroline Koch and Albert Lanceley. We travelled by horse and buggy four miles to school. I was good in spelling bees. Our first home had only two rooms.

Step Father - Martin Burman (Dutch American), farmer.

Submitted by Fraser Whyte for wife Eleanor

One of the very early settlers to homestead in the Meadow Bank district was Mr. James Brand who, with Mr. Alex Donald (Sandy), immigrated to Canada from Leith, Scotland. Jimmy, as he was known, filed on the SE¼, 4, 37, 12, W2, in 1906.

Neither of these gentlemen knew anything about farming, in fact, Jimmy was a sailor, and because of an eye injury, had decided to to leave the sea and come to Canada.

Their first log cabin was built on Sandy's quarter with logs perpendicular rather than horizontal, and the plastering left much to be desired.

He, like many others, spent the winters in logging camps on the Red Deer, to finance the next summer's farming. In 1915, he joined the 65th Battalion and was in the first draft that went overseas. He was killed on the Somme in 1916.

In 1917, his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Whyte, came from Brandon and took over the farm. In 1919 Mr. Whyte passed away, and Mrs. Whyte with her son, Fraser, moved to Wadena. The farm was then rented until 1926 when nephew, Fraser Whyte, took over. Fraser farmed it until 1973 with his wife Helen Eleanor Fuller, whom he married in 1934. She was the second eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Burman.

Fraser and Eleanor had a family of one son and four daughters. Fraser Jr. lives in Regina,where he met and married Wilma Beattinger. They have one son, Trevor and two daughters, Lisa and Tanya. Alice lives in Edmonton, she is married to Jack Thomas, formerly of Portage la Prairie. She met him while she was in nurses training there. They have a family of one son and four daughters, Bruce Colin, Darcy, Allanna and Wanda (twins), and Mallory. Joan lives in Regina where she met her husband, Bob Watson. They have their own business, Watson's Electric. They have one son, Lyle, and two daughters, Laurie and Sandra. Anita of Winnipeg is married to Edwin Bohn of that city, their family consists of two boys, Darren and Dallas. Then there is Mary, who has lived in Toronto for a number of years, where she met and married Mark Ely. They have a family of one son, Mason, and one daughter, Sherri-Anne. They have now moved to Winnipeg.

In 1971, Mr. and Mrs. Whyte retired and moved to Kelvington. Their retirement was saddened by the passing of Mrs. Whyte in the summer of 1974. Eleanor was born in the U.S.A., and came to Canada with her brother, Ernie, her sister, Mae, and mother. Mrs. Fuller who later married Mr. Martin Burman, was a sister of Mr. Ernie Parker, a Kelvington pioneer. Fraser was born in Edinborough, Scotland. He came to Canada in 1884 with his pioneer parents.

A matter of interest, in 1928 a school was built one quarter of a mile from Sgt. Brand's homestead and was named after him. It was later closed and moved into Kelvington and converted into a home.

Mr. and Mrs. Whyte

Jay Garrison Family

Submitted by Sybil (Garrison) Weinmeister.

Memories of Rotnum School #2147

In the spring of 1936, I commenced Grade I at Rotnum. My hair was a suede blonde then and styled in ringlets created from winding the hair around a rag. My mother was an artist at this nightly task.

For the first day of school, I donned a navy serge skirt sewn by my mother, a red sweater, fawn cashmere ribbed hose, peach fleece lined bloomers (peach was my mother's favorite color), a navy chinchilla coat, red helmet and leather mitts complimented this outfit. Lunch was packed in a Lovera syrup pail. Sandwiches were made of homemade bread, bulk cheese, bought from A.G.Anderson's Red and White store in Wendon, one orange or a few dates for a treat.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught to six beginners by Don Leitch whom I'm sure we frustrated. By Friday he was ready to boil us in oil.

Sybil (Garrison) Weinmaster continued

Highlights of the season were the Christmas concerts, where every female student appeared in taffeta or satin with a starched ribbon in her hair. Halloween parties were fun and everyone came. Our annual summer picnics with races, ball games, and homemade ice cream were treats. School activities consisted of softball games, prisoners base, fox and goose, lightning anti-over. Friday afternoons we held a Red Cross program with students participating. I recited the following verse every Friday for six years, I'm sure:

Sing Blue Bird sing
A song of happy spring
The air is soft, the sky is blue
And flowers wait to welcome you
Sing Blue Bird sing.

In my days the cloak room took on the form of a ballroom. Eileen Evenson was the dance instructor. The doors to the classroom were carefully guarded, while Eileen and her students swayed to "Life in the Vineyard Woods". A lively Schottische or square dance usually resulted in another crack in the plaster.

With the arrival of spring came measles, whooping cough and chicken pox. Any chest complications of that era were effectively treated with Mrs. Harrison's goose grease. Also, by the end of the first week in school it was usually necessary to undergo Capitis Pediculi treatment, better known as delousing --- out came the coal oil and a fine tooth comb!

There were the visits from Sparks, the Superintendent. "Mr. Sparks" I mean. He appeared as a thief in the night, a tall, heavy gentleman who bore the appearance of a Sergeant Major. His favorite color must have been grey, because he appeared in a grey suit for ten years. Under his arm he carried a mysterious brief case or folder, and we younger students envisioned therein a loaded pistol, ready to roar at any moment. His visits consisted mainly of prowling up and down the aisles. This nerve wracking procedure carried on for thirty to sixty minutes. Long enough for everyone to dispose of their precious Wrigleys chewing gum -- a deathly silence prevailed. By the time he made his final round, and graciously shook the teacher's hand, we all had to go to the backhouse.

We lived two and a half miles from school. If the weather was decent, I walked. Modes of transportation varied. In winter I was usually driven by horse and cutter, toboggan or even a manure sled was used. In summer we used the horse and buggy. I was driven to Screamton's corner, which is about half way to school, and walked from there.

In summer I always walked home. One evening on our way home from school, my friend Frances Kiland and I came to a tempting mud hole in front of Alex Weekland's gate. What a challenge, cross over or go around. Naturally we went through. Well, it was like quicksand. Frances disappeared up to her knees and lost her rubbers. We hunted, dug and probed, but to no avail. In her sock

Sybil Weinmaster continued

feet, Frances walked home. I shall never forget the look on Joe and Clare's faces. We looked as though we had been on a safari hunt for a week! Clare's sour cream cookies were extra good that day.

The annual school meeting was usually held every January in 50° below weather. The colder the better, for the air was hot. The conduct of this meeting was usually very spontaneous with the sense of such action, hiring, firing, suspensions were not unusual, all problems were publicly aired, no exception to the rule.

I remember Dad speaking of the school act - with his keen memory, he knew it backwards. Our mother, who was reserved and somewhat sophisticated, stayed home on these wild excursions. She did a crossword puzzle, providing there wasn't a hole in the mantle of the Alladdin lamp.

After finishing school at Potnam, I went on to attend Wadena High, then to Two Rivers Bible Institute. In 1950, I entered nurses training at the Yorkton General Hospital. Intern discipline, long hours of study, macaroni and cheese for supper every other night were all a part of our nursing career. It has been a most satisfying profession. Immediately following graduation, I returned to Wadena to nurse with Dr. [illegible] physician in the operating room. I was issued a privilege with this keen surgeon, who made his [illegible] sclera of the patient's eyes.

To bring this story to a perfect [illegible] in nurses training. The [illegible] careful scrutiny. We were married in the former Wadena Baptist Church on September 10 [illegible]. Mel was born and raised in the Yorkton district and [illegible] retail business twenty-six years ago.

He managed a Safeway supermarket for sixteen years, it has been a rather demanding life, but he looks forward to an early retirement.

Mel has been a wonderful father and friend to our two sons. James Richard age 22 attends the U of S in Saskatoon, College of Commerce. He loves politics, adventure movies, could travel forever I'm sure. He is majoring in marketing, so perhaps this will afford him a few of his heart's desires.

Tim is our 18 year old who has finished his Grade XII, and is employed at MacDonald Consolidated Ltd. Unlike his brother, he is the conservative spender of the two and usually ends up financing his spending older brother. We enjoy having Tim at home. He gets blamed for everything, but has not threatened to leave home yet. He has my father's keen wit and Grandpa Weinmaster's quiet personality.

I look back to my school days with a sense of pride and nostalgia. To celebrate this homecoming is truly an event of a life time.

To those of you who have worked so diligently to make this weekend a reality; thank you for keeping the banners of our Alma Mata flying.

In closing, I wish to pay special tribute to my late parents who pioneered in the Rotnum district. How thankful for parents who encouraged our education, who taught us honesty and responsibility. Their great wisdom and guidance has played such an integral part in the lives of our families.

Memories submitted by Leslie Garrison

These memoirs are an attempt to record chronologically a decade of history in rural Saskatchewan. A decade of pioneer history within the confort of the Rotnum [illegible] district. Each organization of character and events has been conscientiously avoided. Hence the descriptions, anecdotes, and references to my family, teachers and friends are to the best of my knowledge and recollection, reliable facts.

The following pages are presented as a dedication to the memory of those pioneer farmers, including my parents, whose vision and sacrifice brought the Rotnum School district into being; to those teachers who gave unselfishly of themselves and their knowledge that I might be better educated, and lastly to my fellow classmates who provided me with keen academic competition within a wholesome social environment.

The Rotnum School District, like most of the school districts that were formed in the pioneer communities of Canada's Northwestern frontier, was composed of immigrants of various ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. They were a hardy lot with ancestral roots in the British Isles, the Scandinavian countries, and Germany. Some of these pioneers came directly to Canada from Europe, while others, including my father, emigrated from the United States.

My father, Howard Jay Garrison was born near Preston, in Cook County, Minnesota on September 14, 1868 to Hugh Garrison and Sarah Foster. Sometime after my father's birth and prior to 1900, the Garrison family moved to Appleton City, Missouri, where my grandfather was engaged in farming. However, he found it difficult to provide for his family from a farm that was dotted with hardwood stumps. I suspect, though I have no proof, that my grandfather moved to Missouri for my grandmother's health. She had contracted tuberculosis, and the rigors of the winters of northern Minnesota would have accentuated her problem. In any case, she passed away on the farm in Appleton City about 1900.

The loss of his mother made an indelible impression upon my father who was scarcely twelve years of age at the time. On a number of occasions, I recall, my father shared the simple, profound circumstances of my grandmother's death.

Leslie Garrison continued

The northwest beckoned my grandfather again. This time, however, it was the Canadian Northwest Territories. Peace had returned to the area following the Riel Rebellion in 1885. Now 160 acres of fertile land could be acquired as a "homestead". There were no hardwood trees or stumps to contend with and moreover transportation rates were kept low to encourage immigrants. Thus in 1887 my grandfather Garrison, now a widower with six children, decided to move to Canada.

The plans for the trip were as follows, the younger children were to travel on a passenger coach under the care of my father's eldest sister Nora. My grandfather would ride in the box car with the farm equipment and household effects that he dare dare that would go with. However, as it did not go according to plan. As the box car was tied into earlier and as the train pulled up speed a young mare escaped from the car. It was my father. He had not taken kindly to the idea of being separated from my grandfather for the duration of the trip. Moreover he certainly was not about to miss the excitement of riding in a box car all the way to Canada. So my father had stowed away among the personal effects. As I pen these lines, I cannot help but wonder what inner conflict of feelings in the land where their loved one had recently been laid to rest, and what hopes and aspirations for the future in Canada must have occupied for a moment in their emotions as they started that long and wearisome journey north.

In 1905 Saskatchewan entered the Confederation of Canada as a province. The following year as soon as he had turned sixteen, my father traded his 160 acre portion of Section [illegible] of what today is the village of Spiritwood my father selected a homestead and filed a claim on the NW, 2, 17, 21. Grandfather Garrison homesteaded the adjoining quarter section of the land to the east.

Notwithstanding the hardships of frontier life things were now beginning to look a little better for the Garrison family. My grandfather remarried after the death of Section [illegible] second wife was a widow by the name of Jeannie Thorn with a beautiful little daughter named Doris. She would one day become the wife of John Brooks of Kelvington.

In the meantime, a camaraderie grew up between my father and his stepsister that would endure unscathed for the entire span of their lives. He got it in the neck of almost as much as those he would later dare when the little girl with the golden curls would ride on top of the driver box, sit down in front of my father, completely entrusting herself to him were as he would his fists.

However for the pioneer life's sweet experiences were frequently tempered with bitter ones. During the period that Grandfather Garrison made his headquarters in the Carrot area a number of tragedies struck the family. First it became apparent that my father's youngest brother Lorne would be a cripple for the rest of his life. Evidently he had been dropped as a baby and he was now developing a severe case of curvature of the spine, and

with other complications. Then Mae, my father's youngest sister was suddenly stricken with diphtheria and passed away. And finally my grandfather fell victim to the harshness of winter in the Canadian Northwest. While returning from the woods with a load of firewood he froze his feet. One foot had to be amputated. Winter gave into spring and spring into early summer as my grandfather convalesced in the Weston General Hospital. Finally, the long awaited day arrived in which he was to be discharged. Ironically, however, he succumbed to a heart attack on the very day he was to return home.

In 1911 another immigrant arrived in Weston. She was Mary Eliza Richards, a stonemason, and Sarah Lightfoot in St. Helens, near Manchester, England in 1886. This beautiful, petite, fine-featured, retiring young woman had traveled across the Atlantic, "steerage" class to be with her father who was living in Weston at the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Garrison

Subsequently, Mary Richards and her father moved to the Wadena area. Evan Richards, later to become the only grandparent I knew personally, purchased a half section of unimproved land from the Canadian Pacific Railroad. As I recall, his property was situated about a mile east of what today is the intersection of Highways # 35 and 49. My Grandfather Richards a very good natured, morally upright, jolly sort of individual. He was particularly fond of my sisters and me, and some of the happiest moments of my childhood were spent in his company. He had so much to share about his experiences in England, about relatives I had never seen, and about the Royal Family of whom I considered myself a loyal, devoted subject!

Mary Richards, my mother-to-be, received her first real introduction to pioneer life on the farm of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hare. Here, some 24 miles northeast of Wadena, she learned the basics of pioneer baking and cooking, to be resourceful, "to make do with very little."

The tension of adjusting to a new way of life, and of learning new skills, was not without its moments of humourous relief. In this regard one of my mother's favorite recollections of those days of initiation and apprenticeship concerns the first loaf of bread she baked for her aunt. To my mother's dismay it turned out to be almost indestructibly hard! Something had gone wrong, but there would be other opportunities to perfect her baking skills. In the meantime, my future English aunt decided that with a coat of shoe blacking the unrelenting loaf would be "just the ticket" for a doorstop. And a doorstop it became, my mother would laugh and recall.

[redacted]

[redacted]
to "kill two birds with one stone."

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

For a number of years my father's homestead cabin served as the center of domestic life for the Garrison family. Meals were prepared in the log "lean-to" on the north end of the cabin. Throughout the dwelling furnishings were simple but functional. In the kitchen there was a wood burning cook stove, a cabinet with a flour bin and shelves for storage, a table, a bench and a few chairs, and a wash stand on which rested an enamel wash basin, a bucket of water and a tin dipper. Wood for the cook stove was stacked near the wash stand and over on the far side (south) of the kitchen, near a window, was a cot.

The main dwelling area was partitioned, providing sleeping quarters at one end and a large living area in the remainder of the cabin. A beautiful solid oak sideboard adorned one wall and in front of it, in a place of prominence, stood a catching round, dropleaf table. An Aladdin lamp which occupied the center of the table and during the long winter evenings, provided a measure of ornamentation and the needed illumination.

The windows, which at intervals during the winter months would be covered with a thick coat of frost, were draped with simple but attractive lace curtains. During the spring and early summer the lengthening rays of the sun, through these same windows, would cause my mother's house plants to active growth once more. She cared tenderly for them and cherished them. Her favourite indoor plant was a "wax flower" perhaps in this predilection there was an unconscious projection of the daintiness and unobtrusiveness of my mother's own personality.

On the walls a few pictures completed the interior decoration. Some of these pictures, like some of the furniture, were wedding gifts from friends and neighbours. Two pictures in particular attracted my attention. One was a large black and white lithograph of a girl reading propped up in an oak-grey hardwood frame. The picture depicted an attractive young girl and a beautiful collie dog who was looking up at his mistress inquisitively. I suppose I remember this picture because it reminded me of my father's two faithful canines, a collie bitch who lived to the ripe old age of fifteen, and a collie dog to my companion who very delighted my boyish heart with unbelievably large litters of squirming, cuddly pups.

The other frame was considerably smaller, but held much more personal interest for me. It displayed four oval portraits mounted behind oval openings in an off-white mat. A picture of Reginald Lord, my father's closest friend during his bachelor days, who was killed in action in France during World War I, occupied the left end of the frame. On the extreme right of the frame was a picture of a family relative, whose identity I do not recall. Portraits of my father and mother, taken about the time of their wedding occupied the centre of the frame. These reproductions were of particular interest to me because they portrayed my mother with a beautiful head of hair and my father with a moustache which was very becoming to him, I thought. However, my life-long recollections of his were 'sans moustache'. I never did learn why my father decided to shave it off!

[illegible] beneath the main living quarters was a root cellar accessed by which was made from the living room by means of a trap door and [illegible] ladder. There in the fall of the year potatoes, cabbages, carrots, beets, parsnips and a few [illegible] were stored for the long winter ahead. [illegible] was lined with an ample supply of preserves packed on [illegible] wooden shelves at the back of the cellar. [illegible] one corner stood a large [illegible] crock. By filling this [illegible] with a quantity of water it [illegible] as a kitchen chair, [illegible] a corner were some [illegible] and crocks. [illegible] a great [illegible] and home and [illegible].

[illegible] that upon occasion in pre-school days this [illegible] served as a place of refuge for my mother [illegible] Mary and Anne. My father was away at the time [illegible] friends harvest [illegible] day had been hot and sultry that evening a [illegible] developed upon the prairie. As the storm [illegible] ground as the [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

By 1921, the need for a school in our area had become apparent. I was only five years of age, but there were other children older than I who were obliged to drive a considerable distance to Duck Creek or Wolverton Schools for their education. Thus, sometime in 1920 the process was initiated for the formation of Rotnum School District #[illegible]. My father took an active role in the development and subsequent administration of the district as a board member.

The school was located on two acres of land in the SW corner of the SW1/4, 35, 12 W2. The land belong to Oscar Rotnum, and he either sold it or deeded it to the district.

The school opened its doors for the first time, sometime during the fall or early winter of 1922. Miss Ingram whose father was a road contractor in the Wadena-Sullivan Lake area, was our first teacher. I began school just after my sixth birthday in November and just a few weeks before Christmas.

I recall quite vividly what I believe was my first formal lesson. Miss Ingram drew a picture of a cat in a seated position on the blackboard. Then she asked me to identify the object she had sketched. Without hesitation I replied, "It's an aeroplane!" Miss Ingram had made an excellent reproduction of a cat, but she had not reckoned with the fact that I was caught up in the fantasy of Christmas expectations. The platform for the Christmas program, had already been installed. An air of excitement prevaded the school. I lived those days in anticipation of a toy aeroplane I wanted for Christmas.

I recall Miss Ingram as being a kind but firm teacher whom I respected. On her desk she kept a pearl handled pen-knife which held a curious attraction for me. However, I never touched it, for I always associated such a venture with discipline!

Miss Ingram married Mr. Riley, principal of Wadena High School, years later. I was saddened to learn of their tragic death at a railroad crossing.

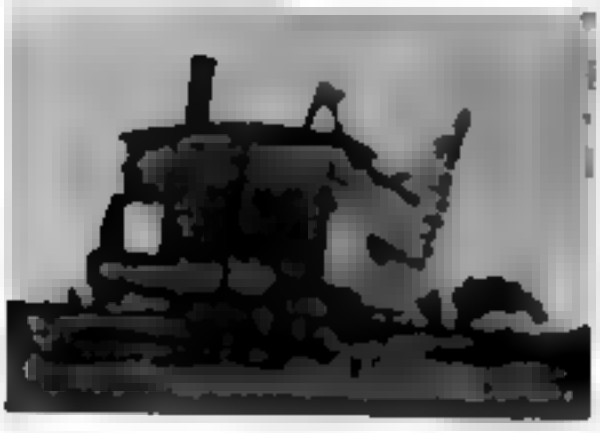
Miss Cherry took over the teaching duties at Rotnum School in 1923. She was an attractive well-dressed, and well-mannered person. Evidently she had some interest in Natural Science or Botany for she kept plants at school during the summer months. One in particular attracted my attention. It was a begonia or coleus clipping which was suspended in a solution of water and red ink. The object was to illustrate the process of osmosis. I found it fascinating to observe the progress of the dye as it made its way up the stem of the plant into the veins of the leaves.

Our next teacher came to us in 1924 from a pioneer family in Wadena. She was a petite young woman by the name of Essie Bryce. While I do not recall any unusual school experiences during this year, I do remember her as a kind person whom I respected, and under whose tutelage I progressed in my studies.

Leslie Garrison continued

It was during this year, 1924, that I recall having seen my first car. It was a Model T Ford touring car which the Bryce family would drive up to the Rotnum School on Friday afternoons to take their daughter back to Wadena for the summer weekend.

Other signs of progress were beginning to manifest themselves in our community. I have reference to the CPR which linked Yorston and Shoho with Kipahin.



Laying the Rails

Little did I realise that Sunday afternoon in 1924 when my father and Mother took my sister Mabel and I in the old buggy to the railroad right-of-way, to watch the track-laying process, that it would significantly change the life style of the entire community. No longer would farmers be forced to haul their grain 15 or 20 miles to Wadena or Kelvington. Soon small towns like Nendon, with grain elevators, a store or two, a post-office and a blacksmith shop, etc. would spring up along the right-of-way. Certainly, the advent of the railroad in our area contributed directly to the improvement of the lot of the families which resided in the Rotnum School District.

A regular visitor to our school, at least once a year and sometimes twice, was a dignified old gentleman from Wadena by the name of Mr. Weeser, our school inspector. In the winter time he engaged the livery services available in Wadena and would drive out with a team of horses hitched to a cutter. In the summer, I believe he first drove out in a buggy and later in a Model T. In any case, the children of Rotnum school were always alerted to his coming, and encouraged by our teacher to be on our best behaviour. So it was, that when our teacher went to answer the front door and returned with Mr. Weeser we would automatically stand to attention beside our desks in respect for this venerable old man.

During his tour of inspection, Mr. Weeser would customarily take over some of the teaching duties for a short time. On one of his visits I recall that he waxed very eloquent as he recited for us lines from the Canadian Indian poetess, Pauline Johnson. I can still hear him and still recall the enthusiastic gleam in his eye as he recited from the "Song my Paddle Sings",

"West winds blow from your prairie nest
Blow from the mountains, blow from the west"

In 1924 Rotnum School district hired its first male teacher, Percy Heffron from Kelvington. His parents were pioneers in the Kelvington area.

His parents operated a general store. I strongly suspect that my father and some of the other members of the School Board felt that some of the students had reached the point in their previous accomplishment to warrant a "firm hand". While I do not recall any particular disciplinary problems from that school year, I do recall Mr. Heffren [illegible] he must have been our first teacher who wore glasses in the classroom!

[illegible] to the end of my association with [illegible] school [illegible] our home [illegible] a boarding place for [illegible] years. [illegible] in our home of [illegible] other [illegible] he would arrive on a [illegible] the spring and summer [illegible] or [illegible] in an old open-sided [illegible] red [illegible] an empty impress [illegible] it was a lover's [illegible] to be superior [illegible] was [illegible] or [illegible] to carry. [illegible] was [illegible] of pens or of large [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] of 25 or 3 [illegible] [illegible] would [illegible] home at noon in order [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Lewis Garrison continued

[illegible] able to return to Madeira.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] in his Model A Ford Coupe. We arrived there about 11 o'clock.

I now regard my confinement in the hospital as a very important phase in my personal development. In the first place, I had two weeks to ponder the fact that I was hospitalized, as the fruit of my own disobedience. While I did not manifest overt contriteness for either my act of disobedience or my predicament, I clearly got the message that it gave to every one's parental Sovereign. Secondly, I began to realize how much I really missed the classes at school. To be separated from it now was almost a part of punishment for me. In the meantime, the hospital library provided me with plenty of reading materials. In particular, I read many Horatio Alger adventure stories. Then it was for the first time that my interest was kindled in the Hispanic culture and peoples of Mexico and Southwest USA. An interest that later I would come to regard as both a calling and a profession in life.

Upon my return home from the hospital, I dedicated myself to the task of making up my school work. Some evenings I would work as many as one hundred math problems. In fact a friendly rivalry developed between Ira Sorensen and I to see which one of us would do the most math problems for homework. Thus it developed by June of 1924, I was promoted to Grade VIII.

When Potter School reconvened that fall Mr. Spencer, who was now boarding with my family, had his work cut out for him. There were a total ten or twelve of us in Grade VIII. Mr. Spencer's priority was to prepare us for the Government High School Entrance Examinations, which would be held the following June. And prepare us he did!

Potter School was designated as an official examination centre that year 1924 for the first time. Our exams were spaced over a period of several days. All went well for me, I thought, until the last day. There I encountered difficulty with Whole Theory. I knew that if I failed the exam I would have to repeat grade VIII. I managed to choke back the tears until I had completed the exam. Then I tried to do the school building and wept. However, my sense of relief was short lived when the official word came through from Regina that I had not only passed the exam but that I had passed it with "honors". In retrospect, much of the credit for this achievement must go to my parents who encouraged me and to Mr. Spencer, who inspired me.

The year 1924 was a very significant year for me. It not only was the year of my graduation from Elementary School to High School, but also the year I entered my teens. In a number of ways I was growing up, or so I thought. Under Mr. Spencer's tutelage my academic interests were becoming more specific. Especially in particular my ninth grade studies in general science and math with me a special fondness for radio-electronics. This interest was to lead to formal studies, and to responsibilities in the end with the Central American Mission as "technician in charge of radio" station [illegible]. Then too, 1924 was the year in which I became the "brother" of Cyril Mac.

**Leslie Garrison**

[illegible] made her debut into this world on April 1[illegible] in the midst of the spring "round-up"! There was not enough snow on the roads to permit transportation by sleigh and the roads were too muddy to accommodate any type of wheel. However the farmers had already found a [illegible]. They were driving their horses and [illegible] in the districts on the last week end of the [illegible] years I am told it happened that when in the very early hours of the morning mother began to experience the first pangs of approaching delivery that my father and mother [illegible] a cutter and [illegible] our road roller or [illegible]. Other [illegible] took to the [illegible] weather and [illegible] to the Indian [illegible]. [illegible] was [illegible] that same morning, [illegible] mother's [illegible] - made the worse for the trip!

Throughout the years [illegible] served as a focal point for the gathering of [illegible] for [illegible] there were at least three [illegible] each year [illegible] a [illegible] a [illegible] of the prairie and of course [illegible] these [illegible] were [illegible] to [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] however parents and friends [illegible] the enjoyment of the occasion. [illegible] provided [illegible] with an opportunity to [illegible] the things that [illegible] farmers the most, crops, weather and politics.

The year end picnic of 1911

are sit the farmers of the district - Charles [illegible] are [illegible] cussing!

[illegible] were [illegible] handle or whatever needed doing. Good days, good memories.

[illegible] recall [illegible] of recreation rather [illegible] from the year [illegible] was a [illegible] party [illegible] a [illegible] direction of [illegible] or [illegible]. [illegible] looked [illegible] would attend [illegible] treated as a [illegible] father's [illegible]. My father and [illegible] [illegible] by the necessary [illegible] a [illegible] heated vest and a large [illegible] - at most [illegible] [illegible] made up my mind [illegible] more than my scarce thirteen years.

[redacted]

[redacted]

previously.

[redacted]

before the conclusion of the program!

[redacted]

[redacted]

salutary effects of corporal punishment.

In addition to a good academic background Miss Bryant, brought another very important dimension to the Botha School District, namely her personal interest in the moral and spiritual values of her spiritual values of her students. She demonstrated this concern by her willingness to conduct Sunday School classes in the area and by attending Church Services held in the community. Furthermore, she was a woman who believed in the power of prayer. Years later, following my conversion to Christ in 1[illegible], I learned that my faithful teacher had kept me on her prayer list.

Miss Bryant came to Botha at the beginning of the Great Depression of course I did not understand what was going on in the economic world of Canada and the U. S. However, I did understand very clearly my father's pragmatic philosophy

"If a bushel of wheat won't buy a gallon of gas,the car can sit." And sit it did, for wheat was selling at [illegible]¢ a bu. while gasoline was costing the farmer something like 4¢ a gallon.

During those days both my father, who was chairman of the School Board and Jesse Mahon the Secretary were swamped with applications from teachers looking for a job. Many teachers like Miss Bryant were willing to work for $15. a month out of which they paid around $15. a month for room and board.

Miss Ethel Dahlstrom followed in 1931 as the new teacher at Botha School. I had now completed grade 7 work, but school regulations did not permit me to continue my high school education at Botha. However, I did enroll in the correspondence program and completed the rest or part of my grade 7 while helping my father on the farm. Miss Dahlstrom boarded with my family for several months and was most helpful when I had a problem with my course. This my direct association with the Botha School covered just a decade; from 1922 to 1932.

Ten years Ten vital years in the complex processes of molding a life. And how critical the balance between school work and friendships -- between academic and social life -- can become!

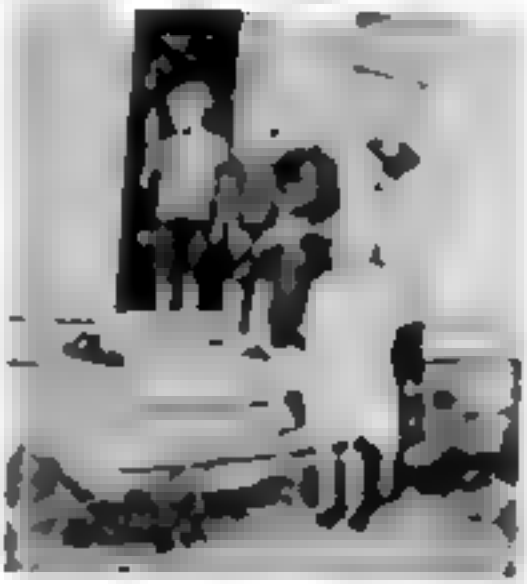
I recall rather vividly the names faces and particulars of many of those students with whom I played "Fox and Geese", "Tops and Bottoms", "Prisoner's Base", "Run, Sheep, Run", "Hide and Seek", "Andy Over" and "Ante I Over" with whom I competed for good grades and with some of whom I had my petty, childish quarrels. The student body at Botha was composed of children from the Harrison family who lived on the Leonard Botha family farm, Clifford and Ina Hall and their family, Art and Ellen Van Evera family, Johnnie Mary and Ben Van Horne family, Hans and Clarence as well as children from the Holstein family. Later as children reached school age, and as new settlers moved into the district the student body grew. Sylvia Harrison now joined her brother at Botha and John and Edith Hanson who held the distinction of being the only two to attend school, continued to represent the Jens Hanson family. Then came the two Grant families, Alfred Melvin and later Ernie. They made base ball an every day sport for all of us at Botha. About the same time the Arrowsmith family moved into the district; Sylvia, Winfred, who later

[illegible] my brother-in-law], Clem, Thomas [illegible], Ethel and Alma all attended Potem School. Another settler in the area was the Antle family represented by Allen and Martin. Then there were children from the Lowe, Cook's family, from the Sims family, from the Major family, Harold and her brother and sister. Finally, from the [illegible] Lee family, Alida, and from the Torgerson family, Myrtle and Lillian.

This "roll call in retrospect" is not presented as being complete. I may easily omit the names and faces of those whom I recall -- those with whom I had almost contact. It is hoped that other contributors to this worthy historical project will be able to fill these and other omissions.

What was the playground of the Potem School, no longer resounds to the voices of children at play. Gone are the buildings, gone are the merry pranks, gone is the dedicated voice of the country school teacher. Its era has passed into history, the demise of the [illegible] school is but a symbol of our changing society, of the quest for efficiency and convenience at the cost of social autonomy.

Few will quarrel with the academic advantages which the modern rural school system affords each of today, however we may regret the passing of many of those values which were characteristic of the first decade of the Potem school, such as respect for elders, reverence for parents, [illegible] and the individual rights of our fellow men.



Pictured to the right is a class of 1924. This is only a few of the children with their teacher Miss Elsie Brice.

Back Row: Leonard Harrison, Leslie Garrison, Roy Rotnum.

Middle Row: Dorothy Evans, and the teacher.

Front Row: Selma Soderquist.

Bob Gowans

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gowan were [illegible] pioneers of the Meadow Lake district. They came from Ontario, [illegible] were born in [illegible], of Irish and Scotch ancestry and were married in Ontario. They came in 1911. They lived near Paynton [illegible] on a farm south & east.

Bob Cowan

In those days many people came west looking for land and on May 18th, 1[illegible] Robert Cowan arrived at 2[illegible]-12 W2 in the Meadow Bank district. This land became the homestead. He came by train to Torston and by livery team to the homestead. He returned here to Torston getting a ride part way with a man driving a team of oxen, and registered a file on the land.

He later travelled back east and in the spring of 190[illegible] returned with Mrs. Cowan and three small children. They came by train to Madena with carloads of settler effects including three horses, a wagon, [illegible] furniture etc. and enough lumber to build a place to live. They journeyed north east through Bowsville and Wadena and arrived at Ed Thompson's "stake" where they stayed while the men were building on the homestead. Their nearest neighbors at that time were Henry Schmidt and Joseph Wallmark sr.

Pioneering entailed hardships and many anxious moments. One of the children became ill with typhoid fever and Mr. Allen was called from Wadena. He came on horse back. The child had to be cared for at home and reports of his condition taken to the Dr. and instructions brought back. These trips to Wadena were also made on horseback. However with careful nursing and the help of relatives and neighbors he was successfully recovered. A trying time for all concerned.

Sometime after this typhoid episode the family moved to Winnipeg and later to a farm at Harding, Man. and in the spring of 1[illegible] returned to Meadow Bank.

Mrs. Cowan was a school and music teacher and taught both in Winnipeg for several years and in 1[illegible] taught in Waverley and were Creek school in [illegible]. The Cowan children attended both these schools.

The Cowans always had music in their home. They had a piano and Mrs. Cowan taught the children music. Many times the piano was loaded into a sleigh and taken to Meadow Bank and the schools for concerts and dances.

DYNAMITE 5
ORCHESTRA 1932

Left to Right

Cortes Cowan, Thur[illegible] Weaver, Clarence [illegible]

Front Row
Horace Newman

In the late twenties an orchestra was organised in Meadow Bank "The Dynamite 5". This orchestra contributed a great deal to the entertainment and social life of the community and of many others as well. It continued over a span of approximately 25 years. During that time many other musicians were involved. Five Gowans played in the Dynamite orchestra. For the original group Cortes- violin, Leighton - violin and piano, and Thurlow - Banjo and in the thirties, Thelma played piano and Percy drums.

Robert and Gertrude Gowan had ten Children - Cortes, Milton, Margaret, Olive, Leighton, Phyllis, Van, Percy, Jean and Thelma.

Mr. & Mrs. Gowan were active and interested in everything until, shortly before they died Mr. Gowan in his 94th year and Mrs. Gowan three days before her 93rd birthday.

John Gowan Family

John Gowan and Ida Thompson were reared in the beautiful Gatineau Hills country close to Ottawa at Poltimore, Quebec. In her younger years Ida taught school in that area,(somewhat of a family tradition as we still have hand-made registers, in the family, made and dated 1864, by her mother). Ida was a voice enthusiast and took lessons in voice and piano in Ottawa where she was offered a professional career. Family morals and the connotations of the "stage" at that time forbade any consideration of such a thought.

After their marriage in Ottawa,John and Ida spent a few years there where he was working in the lumbering industry. Their daughter Marie, Mrs. Steele, presently of Madena, was born there, before the family "came west" to Dauphin and Grandview in Man. Father was employed at Grandview by T.A. Burrows Lumber Co. as a steam engineer. It everyone was interested in homesteading in the first decade of the twentieth century quite early. The birth of a son, Thurlow, may have been the deciding factor which made the family settle down for good on the farm.

John Gowan, called "Jack" by most of his friends, pioneers like Dick Messenger, Dan McKay, Dan Wurtz, and Harry Millikan to mention a few, had come to Meadow Bank from Grandview where he was in charge of the,then new sawd st h ening equipment there. As well he had control of the power ho se which lighted the town and the sawmill in a day when small town electrification was rather rare.

He had apprenticed for steam engineering with W.C. Edwards and J.R. Booth of Ottawa l mber fame, so he was able to apply these talents well when he came West to Grandview.

John's first trips west were with the popular harvest excursions of those times where his experience with steam was in good demand. He worked for a few farms in the Wolseley district, both operating threshing engines in the field and setting up and delivering new machines for a dealer there. It was a time when oil

burning engines were called contraptions and steam was opening up the West, + even to p...ing treasure p ane in six or eight forced years. — These old steamers were strong!

The Gosses settled on the NW ¼ Sec 24-14-12 in the year 1...
This was the area served by the Meadow Lake Post Office which was situated on NE ¼ Sec 1-14-12 one of the steps north of Sedens on a route to Saskatoon Portland or Manchester which later became ## #. The first years on the farm a house and granaries were built of logs from Rose's mill, somewhere in the neighborhood of the present town of Rose Valley. One of these granaries were still standing in the summer of ' ' and prob...y still is with its dove-tailed corners and original roof.

On the homestead twenty miles or more from the nearest town when the best or only roads were in the winter time it became quite a chore to haul grain or other products to market. For town with...twenty miles, such as I recall it, seems or in later years sixteen had educative stores and intermittent businesses but when you and your team of horses had been on the road loaded for six or seven hours one needed food accommodation first for the horses and second ...for oneself. Thence became the focal centre of many activities, stories of the good fellowship, courtesy homes and luxury stable hand facilities. From this aspect this route has a greater consideration in the minds of most Westerns here than the "Trail" at Uncle Sam's Notes, at least, in the eyes of our father it was.

Rose...he spent much of his time giving a hand to any neighbor who needed it. He lit in the ' end of ...ranches formerly ...Prospect we have where he was most often ...and had a time for ...ing ...Never the less ...by the help of his good wife he was the first postmaster of the ... post office ... Water or Rose. It ... was correct ... or his ... to ... he was one of the charter members of the Sedens ... and acted on the board of directors of the Meadow Lake ... when it was in its ... In ... the ... served for ... years ... and ... who owned the first automobiles in the neighborhood.

That year when the ... land boom. They were ... "Settlers" then ... of ... loaded their ... and ... farm, ... or ... ) ... came or drove his ... the ... and ... were said to make it in three minutes down to the ... and ... a crowded ... the ... ... he heard that if the "line" had been ... on his ... the ... would have swept it away. It was that close. There were ... a few who saw that ... ... over the ... ... did not ... ... for its ... ... attracted a ... ... It was the first game ... ... in the ... and of course ... went to the ... ... ... that ... on ... ... ... six miles north of the first landing site.

heavy chore of devoted care in the later years.

school board.

prairie trail so it was agreed that each should have one of the tracks. That left Katherine's side of the buggy out on the rough prairie. Messenger's spirited steed, spoiling for the race soon left Linden in the dust, but not for long. The new bicycle bereft of lunch pail and hooks striking a level stretch of trail gained miraculously. Alfred, upon seeing his opponent alongside, gave a lusty yell and slackened the reins. The horse went crazy, Walter dove from his perch into a passing wolf willow grove and Kathy, thrown from her seat, was seen by the whole school going "around the wheel". Linden was a full length ahead now, but Alfred never stopped. With the load lightened by two passengers the buggy sprang forward, and with loose reins and flailing whip they crossed the finish line at the school gate, bicycle to bridle and nose to nose in a perfect draw.

There were quiet times too at Duck Creek when we had gardens in the fireguard, and times when the boys played farm in the soil of it. The farms were quite real with stooks made of soil and peeled posts in a miniature fence of thread or string. In some farms there were real buildings of boards, but the special prize was our threshing machine that really worked powered by an old harpless cream separator.

During one of those quiet times a group of chattering boys fell silent to hear Columbus Skinner sing. He was the only black boy we'd ever seen, and when he sang we listened, everybody always listened, to Columbus. We offered him one of the best farms if he'd sing us a song because he wanted a farm and that's all he had to give. "A farm for a song," you say, "you can't get a deal like that nowadays" --- "Well, no!" --- "But it all depends on who is singing."

[illegible] submitted by Mrs. Evelyn Baer

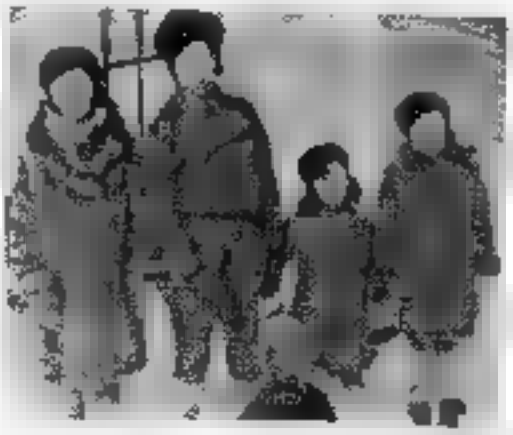
Dad(Noel Grice) came to Canada when a child with his sister Amelia Grice who later married Edgar Caddy.

He returned to England during WWI serving in the [illegible] there met Mother married her and in [illegible] returned to Melville Sask.

I was born May 1, 1922 as Baer, Evelyn Grice. Mother's name was Helena Jane Grice(nee Thirtle). My brother Noel Grice was the eldest, then in order myself, next sister Gwen now Wright and Edna Nora(now Dobson).

My birth certificate gives the location of my birth as S.E. 1/4 - 12-32nd, Saskatchewan. We lived there for some time and then moved to what I remember Dad referring to as "The Little Marker Place". It was from there I believe that I went to Duck Creek school. I don't remember too much about it except that I was very shy and the teacher (can't remember her name) tried to make me sing solo and that didn't go, so she kept me in at recess. I have faint recollections of Meadow Bank Hall, seems to me that the family used to go to dances there and also picnics.

We left Kelvington when I was six, in 1929 when Dad went to Sherridon, Man. and Mother took the rest of us to England for six months visiting her relatives, friends and Dad's relatives, returning to Kelvington for a short time and then on to Sherridon where I lived until the war. I did return to Kelvington in 1932 (when the mine closed at Sherridon) for about a year and stayed with my Aunt and Uncle(The Caddy's). At this time I went to Brand School.



Children of NOEL GRICE

Left to Right

Evelyn, Alan, Edna & Rosalind

Wilma Donald was a special friend. Our families, the Caddy's and the Harrisons as I remember were close friends. Mother always kept in touch. I have no recollection of Rotrum School at all.

GRICE submitted by Alan Grice

My name is Alan N. Grice, my father was Noel, my mother Helena. I had three sisters Evelyn, Rosalind and Edna in order as birth.

I was born at Sec. 16-37-12-W2nd Saskatchewan where we lived until I was 6 years then moved closer to Duck Creek which I attended for over 2 years. Then went to England.

My Father came to Kelvington in 1906 as a young boy to work at the age of 11 he stayed with his sister Mrs. Edgar Caddy and brother of Preeceville. Dad went overseas in the 1st WW and married Helena Thixton. They moved to the farm of my birthplace.

I have crossed many rivers since living on the Homestead 6 miles north of Kelvington.

Left to Right
Back Row
Eric Grice, Noel & Helena Grice, Amelia & Edgar Caddy

Front Row
Baby Alan, Unknown, Stanly Caddy

# The Frank Gutek Family History.

We cannot rightly consider ourselves pioneers in the Bethune district. The farm we live on was occupied for 40 years by Mr. and Mrs. Axel Carlson. They left in May, 1962 for a new home in Sweden.

Frank Gutek was born in a small farm village in Poland. At the age of 12 he came with his parents, Paul and Eva and six younger sisters and brothers to Foster, Sask. He lived here with his family until his marriage and moved to his farm in the Passeglia district.

I was born in Fish Creek, Sask. on June 24th, 1921, the daughter of Anthony Lata and Petronella Lata (nee Kroeger) living on a small farm with five sisters and seven brothers. Upon, to me was a more or less normal childhood. After attending Fish Creek School, the one room log school and the fourteen horse, I began teaching in the Lowell School on Jan. 3rd, 1940. Two years and six months later came to teach in the Hopewell School east of Foster. Here I met and married Frank on April 21st, 1945. We commenced on a farm near Passeglia.

Our family members are Philip Tom, Helen, Harold, Lawrence and Kathryn. We also have 13 grandchildren.

Philip and his wife, Donna Small of Chamberlain, Saskatchewan live in Kansas City, Missouri. Philip is a Plastic Surgeon, a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Medicine, and is a graduate of the University of Missouri, College of Architecture and Interior Design.

Tom and his wife Sharon Smith of Blaine Lake, Sask. live in Edmonton, Alberta. Tom is a Chartered Accountant, and is a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Commerce. Sharon is a teacher and is a graduate of the University of Sask. Members of the family also include Mr. Peter Smith, Blaine Lake, Sask. and Mrs. Smith, who are part owners of the Blaine Lake Farm Equipment Company.

Raymond and his wife Louise Olson of Watrous live on a farm east of Watrous. Raymond is a graduate of the University of Saskatchewan and is a teacher. A graduate of the University of Sask. College of Education. Their family members are Jeffrey, Stephen and Christine. Being a farmer, Raymond is the salesman for the farming operations.

Harold and his wife Mary Partner of Perdue, Sask. live in Calgary, Alberta. Harold is on the staff of the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. He is a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Engineering. Mary is a graduate of the University of Alberta. Their family members are Colleen and Patricia.

Helen and her husband Brian Fiske of Falkirk, Sask. live in Saskatoon. Helen is a graduate of the Nursing School of Nursing, works in the Intensive Care Unit. Brian, a graduate of Agriculture College and the College of Education, University of Sask. is a teacher in the Bethune High School in Watrous. Their family consists of Brandon, Kenton, Daniel and Cameron.

Lawrence and his wife Cindy Miesgoda of Kelvington, make their home in Madena. Lawrence is a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Arts and Science and the College of Education. He is a driller for Cactus Drilling and a farmer in his spare time. Cindy is a graduate of the Kelsey School of Nursing.

Kathryn lives in Saskatoon. She is attending the university of Sask. College of Education.

My family and I owe much to Potnum School, where I taught for three years from 1953 to 1956.

Seymour Leitch

Helmer Lillijord

Otto Schau
Karl Leitch
Paul Mack

The Engineer
Ken Leitch

The Job Well Done

Ice Blocks To Melt

Chop the wood for the winter warmth

**[redacted]** B.A. M.D. F.A.C.S.

[redacted] Surgeons 1979.

[redacted]

[redacted] of Kansas.

[redacted]

[redacted] City.

[redacted] acres of parklands in the Wadena area.

[redacted]

Happily, they lived to celebrate their GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY in 1959, plus another few years!! Their homestead location was: Melvin Tweidt's location today! It was located midway between Kelvington and Wadena along the mail route, RR1. Their home became a half way house for many weary travellers, to feed their horses, while they enjoyed the warmth of a wood-stove, and Mrs. Hanson's home cooking.

[redacted] By Mrs. Joe Hanson

In early years they were active in the affairs of Wolverton school district, since that was the nearest school. However, when Potts school was built their interests were focused there, as well as the Scandia Lutheran church and Scandia Ladies Aid and Meadow Bank community activities.

Several teachers of Potts S.D. boarded at Hanson's home. They included Theresa Spencer 1 2 , Ethel Parsha[illegible] approx 1932-33), Don Leitch 1 [illegible]35 and Ann Nicholson 1 [illegible]40 approx.

Miss Bryant and Mabel Lindstrom boarded at J. Garrisons. The Hanson Family had had a son Hans, a daughter Linnea and twins John and Edith(first set of twins to be born in Madena Union Hosp.) Another daughter, Sadie died at age 1, stricken with influenza in 1918.

Edith and John started at Potts school at 7 yrs of age(1928). Mr. Spencer was the teacher that year. As I recall, from approx. Gr. III on, thr to Gr. VIII(and even Gr. IX & X by correspondence). They were fun-filled years.

Average attendance at Potts School over those years ranged between 20-30. During my early years of school it was customary to have holidays during the month of July, and approx. Dec. 21 to Feb. 1. This was here as of the difficulties of getting to school in severe temps and short daylight hours of January.

Christmas concerts were the high light of the season. Lengthy programs were prepared with recitations, dialogues and musical numbers. The school was always filled to capacity. How exciting it was, a day or two before the concert, to see the Christmas tree go up, the temporary stage built and seats of planking go in. Santa never failed to arrive, and deliver the many gifts under the the tree!

Speaking of the program, I recall Gillian Torgerson never failed to please the crowd with a new song! I wonder how many times John and Edith were coaxed into singing a duet like it-or not!

We at Potts school, envied the students of Dark Creek school. They had the luxury of using the spacious Meadow Bank Hall for their Christmas Concert. Large crowds attended, entertainment was of good caliber. Year after year Sandy Donald was master of ceremonies and Mr. Lancely acted as Santa!

Each year the school closing was marked by the Annual picnic, approx. June 10th. Entire families turned out, bringing picnic lunches. Soft ball was arranged, plus races of all kinds for every age. The home-made Ice-Cream was a perk! I've never tasted better!

My earliest recollection of Meadow Bank Hall was when attending Dark Creek school concerts with our parents. Later there were social gatherings where I remember Mr. Jones singing "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen" etc. and annual picnics. As I grew older, we had many ball games played on the grounds, C.G.I.T. gatherings, Sunday church services led by Miss Crosbie of Kelvington. Also many

bridal showers, wedding dances, regular dances, meetings etc. held in the hall. Looking back, some of the most memorable during my adolescence were at socials and dances held at both Meadow Bank and Hendon Halls.

Rev. Aandal, Rose Valley held church services in Scandia Lutheran Church on #35 hi-way. They seemed to be on quite an irregular basis due to weather, roads, etc. John and I and Ben and Selmer Tweidt were confirmed at the same time, approx. Aug. 1934?

John and I took Gr. VI & VII at Wadena High school. Well I recall the fun times during our first year when John and I as well as Silvia Harrison and Harry Linden boarded at Scout and Martha Branscombes!

The second world war broke out in Sept. 1939. During years 1940--43 I was a student nurse at Saskatoon City Hospital. After graduating, Miss Gregory persuaded me to come to work at Wadena Union Hospital. They were so short staffed that I could only stay on for 6 months here so on Dec. 31, 1943 P.O. Lawrence Tweidle and I were married. It was a double wedding ceremony with my sister Linnea and Carl Tweidt. We were married on our farm by Rev. Morland.

Following Larry's discharge from the services in 1945, we lived in Wadena for 3 years. Larry then employed Dept. of Social Services of Sask., as Welfare Officer, followed by a 15 year stay in North Battleford, Sask. In 1973 Larry was transferred to Saskatoon. He retired in 1978. He left us almost 1 year later.

I returned to the field of nursing, working on a part time basis during the years 1962 to 1975.

We have a family of two girls and two boys, all raised from birth of Sept. 1951 with their father's employment of 15 years. All are married and live in Saskatchewan, with a total of two.

Lawrence graduated from high school with a degree in Medicine later followed by a Master's degree in Theology and presently serving as a missionary in Israel. He also is married with a family of two.

Shelley graduated from high school with a degree in Medicine presently employed as a Realistic Therapist in Vancouver.

Gaynal - our "much younger" son graduated Gr. XII from the Bowman Collegiate as a Class A honour student and presently employed with "For-In-Tek" at U.B.C. and lives there.

The Josef Hanson Family - by John Hanson

Josef Hanson arrived at what was later to become the Lotus Community as a homesteader taking up homestead rights on [illegible] 12, W 2nd. The brothers came as many homesteaders did to claim to

The Josef Hanson Family

No. 167303

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 24687.

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE
JAN 8 1906
YORKTON, SASK.

Agency,

190

I Certify that I have received from Josef Hanson

440. 11 St Moline Sel's USA

the sum of Ten Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for NE.

Quarter of Section 6 Township 36 Range 12

West of 2nd Meridian, and that the said Josef Hanson

is, in accordance with such entry and subject to and entitled with the rights conferred in such

cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

Jas. L. Reader
Local Agent.

OLD RECEIPT—The receipt pictured above is one for $10.00 received by Josef Hanson for the Northeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 36, Range 12, W2 when he paid for his homestead quarter on January 8, 1906. Wonder what the same quarter is worth today?

free land which was advertised widely in the mid-west U.S.A. at that time. The vision of owning your own land and the independance that would flow therefrom was to be sorely tested many times before it became a reality.

Much hardship, loneliness and privation instead awaited those early settlers as they struggled to clear and break small acreages each year on the homestead while trying to finance and build shelter for themselves and their livestock against the bitter cold of those early winters.

Dad spoke of those early years and the trials and tribulations spent working with oxen. Mosquitoes were fierce and oxen with plow attached would leave the furrow and head for the nearest slough to get relief from the hordes of mosquitoes attacking both man and

The Joseph Hanson Family

[illegible] Horses were costly and many died from disease and the harsh environment.

[illegible] father [illegible] came out from Sweden in [illegible] to marry my dad and to share the cost of raising a farm. [illegible] what was to later become a modest size farm.

Roads in the early years were [illegible] across the country side as it grew [illegible] to and from [illegible]. Our farm was [illegible] a mile [illegible] to the [illegible] to side a mile [illegible] the east [illegible] of [illegible] area set aside [illegible] and where [illegible] and their [illegible] and [illegible] applied for the homestead.

Late frosts [illegible] and wet weather [illegible] harvest time were a real [illegible] threat to crops in the early years. Many [illegible] all of [illegible] crop. [illegible] and money for [illegible] the [illegible] drought [illegible] we [illegible] so [illegible] of the [illegible] did not [illegible] for [illegible] I remember [illegible] father [illegible] or real [illegible] as [illegible] with [illegible] from the crop did not pay for the cost of [illegible] so remember the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] those years [illegible] moved to [illegible] the prairie area to make a new [illegible] due to the ravages of drought.

Our father had remembered the [illegible] of rain [illegible] the [illegible] of opera in a [illegible] area [illegible] formed to [illegible] the [illegible] hard for [illegible] years [illegible] we were [illegible] to rent [illegible] because of drought and feed shortage.

The Nygaard family consisted of three [illegible] two [illegible] daughters and [illegible] [illegible] years [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

GROWING UP AT ROTUMA 1928-36 by John O. Hanson

My first recollection of the years spent at Rotuma School goes back to that first day in school which came after the winter break as the school was closed during the bitter weather of January.

The teacher was a young lady not long out of normal school, by the name of Charlie Spencer. It was necessary on that first day of school to record all the vital statistics such as name, age, birth date etc. My twin sister Edith led off with her information after which it was my turn. In the process of giving forth my statistics Edith chirped up with the comment that this was really not necessary--did the teacher not know that we were twins. Charlie had remembered that incident and reminded us of it many years afterwards.

Growing up at Rotuma I expect was not much different than that experienced by many other rural children who spent their early years at the "Little Red School House".

Looking back there were advantages along with the many disadvantages as that stand out in my memories of those days. In the one room school with grades 1 to 8, there was much pre-grade learning as we would listen in on the lessons being presented by the teacher to the senior grades. There was also an ongoing comfortable feeling of familiar surroundings and classmates with advancing grades as often teachers continued unchanged over several year intervals.

One of the disadvantages which I remember was the outdoor "privy" in winter time. No one ventured to sit on the ice cold seat of that two holer, and as a result, waste that accumulated left much to be desired.

Rural school houses of that day were not equipped with electrical or other forms of artificial lighting. As a result the west wall of the school was generously endowed with windows. These were single windows with no storm windows so we were cold in winter during the morning portion of the day and warm to hot during the summer afternoon period. Heat was provided from a wood burning cook type stove. This was fitted with a galvanized iron shield to prevent anyone from getting burned on the hot stove.

It also meant that the bulk of the heat was directed towards and did not radiate outwards to give warmth to students sitting in their desks. I often felt sorry for those who were sitting next to the walls and windows as the cold draught or windy days was very bad.

With the stove burning wood to its capacity, it was often noon or later in the day before the classroom reached comfortable temperature.

Drinking water was brought each day as there was no well on the school property and water could not be left in the cooler during the winter months as the temperature in the school dropped well below freezing each night.

Growing up at Rotnum

I suppose I was fortunate that my years in school were relatively free of traumatic moments. I remember well where the school strap was hidden in the lower right hand drawer of the teacher's large oak desk. On one occasion only did I come close to having it administered. The occasion was an incident involving Sammy Evans. I remember well a teacher's voice when Mr. Mercer laid the strap on top of the desk and proceeded to test me with much vigor. He hoped that the weapons had been intended without administering a strapping to us.

Segregation in that one room rural school in the early '40's was pretty limited. The school library consisted of less than a couple of dozen books, some of which were readers from previous years. I remember the single map case with a series of roll down maps used mainly for geography and history studies.

Sports equipment was also at a minimum. It consisted of a ball and bat plus a volley ball and a few soft balls used to give us lots of exercise chasing up and down the designated playing field in accordance with those rules that were at all like soccer rules.

The highlight of the year was to play softball against and challenge neighboring schools such as Orpington and Queen's Park. These games at times drew more than a hundred spectators as there was much cheering and hoopla of one kind or another. Some were serious, some were silly. Pop Cole who had modified the Model T Ford into the early 1930's was our means of transportation when we had games with neighboring schools.

The annual highlight of the entire school year centered around the Christmas concert. This was a period when the entire school body was involved in rehearsing songs, plays and preparations for the evening performance which was viewed as the major social function of the season. The arrival of Santa Claus at the conclusion of the program was a thrill for all added to the excitement and expectation especially for the younger children. There were many worried parents fearful that the gifts ordered from Eaton's catalogue would not arrive in time for that all important and dramatic event.

My love for horses dates back to those early years at school. Father owned Ed. and I used to ride in summer. Susie was her name and she knew right from the start that we were no novice riders and she responded accordingly as she was treated with respect. We always had a slow ride to school in the morning or when we left it was usually homeward bound and a fast ride after the chores were done there were goodies waiting when she got home.

I can still remember waiting to school in the month of June and every year the same phenomenon of wild roses would appear in profusion along with the fragrance of wild honeysuckle vines. The roadside was also dotted with yellow buttercups and daisies bowing their heads and the meadow with its lessons

of [illegible] a [illegible] sheepherry. It was [illegible] a time when nature [illegible] op a ed a , ter great [illegible] ty and it really felt good to be alive and a part of it all.

[illegible] time in the [illegible] l was a so a time of [illegible] ar[illegible] ent, [illegible] [illegible] e [illegible] [illegible] from a hom[illegible] to he p store[illegible] grain in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hanson

Mr. & Mrs Carl Hanson

CARL HANSON FAMILY submitted by Ellen and Ester

Fathers full name -- Carl Erick Hanson -- born in Hajom, Sweden May 10, 18?? - Died July 8, 1953 at Prince George, B C.

Mothers full name -- Anna Bernadina Nellson - born in Hayom, Sweden Feb 11, 1885 - Died Feb 19, 1956

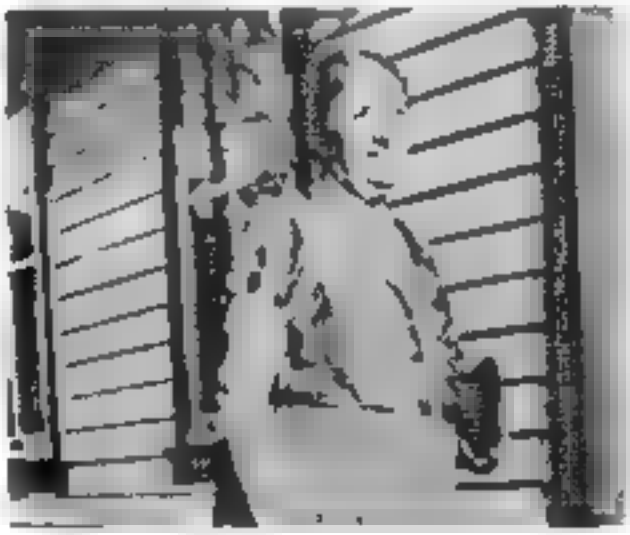
Children -- Ester(Ottarson) of Prince George, B C
Ellen(Adams) of Prince George, B.C
Arthur Hanson Deceased -- June 11, 1946

Dad came from Sweden in the early 1900's to U.S A. and worked at various jobs until 1904 and then went back to Sweden and brought mother back. He then filed on a homestead # Sec 8-18-. He and mother married in 1905 and moved back to the homestead. In 1940 they went to Denver, Colarado. where he worked in a mine for a short while and then returned to live permanently, on the homestead until 1949. When they retired to Hendon. They moved to Prince George, B.C. in 1951..

Audrey Bernice Ottarson is Esters daughter and she attended school at Botsum for a while. Bernice is now Mrs. W. E. O'Connor and lives at Churchill, Man.

MRS HARMON by daughter Doris Prouse

Mrs. Jeannie Moore, a young widow and her 15 month old daughter came to Canada in 1904. Mrs. Moore being a sister-in-law of Mr. Otter, who had come to Yorkton area the previous year, persuaded them to come out to Canada and stay with them until they could get settled on their own, and so it was, they came to the Yorkton area and the Wallace district. Doris never knew her own grandparents so she thought of



Mrs. Harmon

Mrs. Harmon

Mr. & Mrs. Otter as her grandparents.

Three weeks after arriving in Yorkton Mrs. Moore met a [illegible] widower Howard Garrison, and this meeting resulted in marriage.

The Garrison family then came to the Meadow Park district that same year in search of homes each Jessie Garrison filing on the [illegible] and on which the family lived the winter of [illegible]. A step-son Melvin Garrison filed on the [illegible], but he found he was not suited to the hard life and gave it up. A Mr Nider, who had married Mrs. Garrison's sister took up this same parcel of land later and sold it to Ray Garrison, who had taken up as his homestead the NW¼-24-36-13.

That winter typhoid fever struck the home, with Arthur, Melvin and Mrs. Garrison all being stricken at once and their neighbor, Mrs Jim Harrison nursed them all back to health.

In 1[illegible] while in Yorkton Hospital and ready for discharge, Howard Garrison passed away very suddenly.

Several months later Jessie Garrison married Ed. Harmon. It was the first wedding ceremony in the Meadow Park area -- folks had come on the new railway connecting it from Wadena by livery, driven by Mr. [illegible] and it was a cold day. The minister's face was frozen. They had no gift wedding as a wedding rare, made in the confectionary at Wadena owned by a Mr. Hodson and the three tier rare was frozen so solid that to cut it with an axe. Present at the wedding were [illegible] and Lee the needs who lived on the present Garrett Lee farm and also the Lee boys Mr & Mrs. Jim Harrison witnessed the ceremony. Doris remembers that Eva Garrison Irvine was the first baby she had seen.

In the spring of that year they moved to the Ed. Harmon farm south and west of Wadena which is presently the Keith Burnett farm, in the Quill Lake area. After Doris attended school at Quill Lake.

In 1[illegible] the Harmon family moved into the town of Wadena and purchased what was a small acreage with a house and also a barn where Ed. Harmon could keep horses. The site of that property was one time owned by the Rodrick's and now by the Garrison's and is north of the C.P.R. tracks.

In 1[illegible] Doris and Mrs Harmon went to Saskatoon, where Jeannie Harmon worked and Doris continued her schooling.

In Dec. 1[illegible] Doris married John Penner and they lived on their farm north west of Kelvington for 1[illegible] years. Doris has lived in the same house in Kelvington for 21 years. John passing away in 1967.

Jeannie Harmon spent many years in Kelvington, where she owned her own home, passing away in 1945.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Harrison and family-by Eva(Harrison) Irving
S.E. Sec. 20-W-12 Wend

Saskatchewan became a province in 1905 and the C.N.R. railway was pushing westward from Winnipeg. It passed through the area where we are now familiar with the names "Inverway, Marre, Karoki Invermore, Wadena, Pasquia, Claire and Mill Lake." North and south of this line early settlers sought homesteads and a new way of life.

Among these were Mr. Wm. and Howard Harrison. They had emigrated to Canada from near Liverpool early in 1903 and worked in Manitoba before coming to the Wadena area in 1906. Miss M. Smith came from Liverpool area also, and married Mr. Wm. Harrison at Neidorf, Man. in spring of 1907. Mr. Wm. Harrison, leaving his wife with friends in Manitoba came with his brother Howard to Wadena, Sask., and filed on a homestead (S E. Sec 20-[illegible]) in June 1907. He chose this location because of plenty of wood for fuel and building and a lake which held possibilities for cattle raising. The lake had many advantages but also disadvantages-one being the hoards of mosquitoes which infested the area in the woods and tall grasses around the lake.

Mr. Howard Harrison homesteaded SW Sec 28-W-12 which he proved up - but didn't remain in Canada. This land is now owned by his nephew Keith Harrison.

The first task of the homesteader was to build a house-in time for habitation in the fall. This was done with logs felled from nearby woods - stood upright - (as the new homesteader had no means of moving logs except by hand and of necessity they had to be short logs.) The walls were plastered with clay and roofed with poles and covered with sods, cut from the prairie.

When Mrs. Harrison came from Man. in October - there was the house! It had a dirt floor and it was some time before boards were available for a floor. The furniture was homemade.

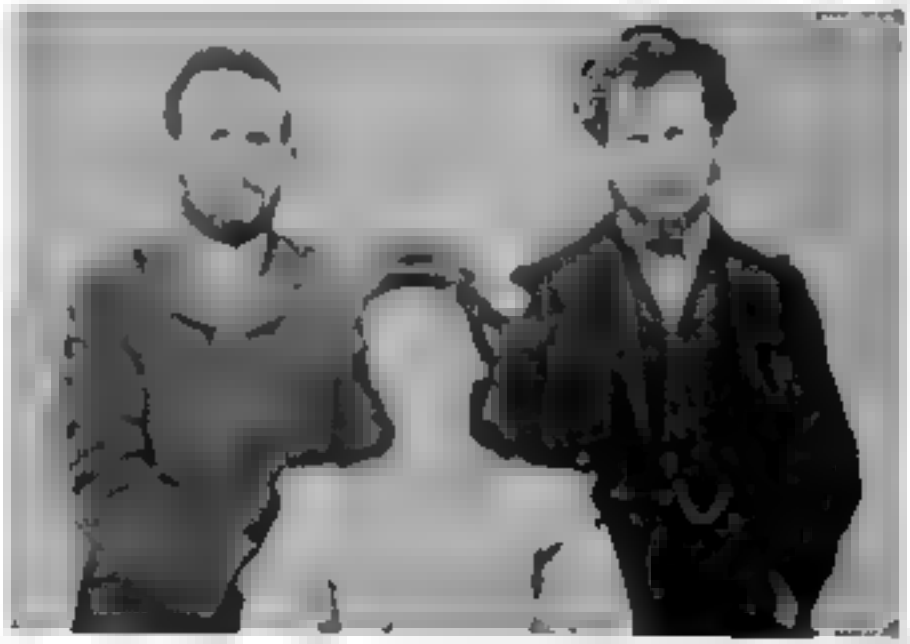
During the following months a barn was erected and land cleared and broken to fulfill homestead duties.

In 1909 the family moved to the north side of the lake where a new house was built, also of logs, on a hill where breezes could blow and discourage the mosquitoes. Now in 1967 the house still stands and was habitated by the Harrison family until 1918 when a frame house was built.

In the winter of 1907-08 was a long cold one. There was an epidemic of typhoid fever in the area and Mrs. Harrison was called to care for typhoid victims in the home of Mr. Howard Garrison N.E. ¼ Sec 24-36-12.

The eldest member of Harrison family, Eva was born in the little house by the lake in January 1909. In the spring Mr. Harrison returned to Man. to work in order to earn money to buy food, oxen, machinery etc. Mrs. Harrison, with the baby spent the summer months alone on the homestead. It was a lonely time.

Wm. Harrison and Family



Mr. Howard Harrison

Mr. William Harrison

Mrs. William Harrison

neighbors were few and far between the nearest town 16 miles away-- post office one mile east across the lake at the home of Mr. Dan Morrison. It was known as "Meadow Park" post office and situated on N.E. ¼ - Sec. 1-Twp.2. At junction of two lakes known as lakes 1 & 2 on survey maps. There was no way to reach the post office except on foot. Mrs. Harrison decided during her sojourn there that that summer would be the last in the location, hence the move across the lake, where greater acreage was in any case. Here the Harrison family grew up - (Eva, Ruth, Sylvia, Leonard and Keith) and where Keith and Leonard still live.

The settlers at this time came from various places, U.S.A., Scandanavia, Mennonites from Germany and some Ukraine. Possibly Scandinavians were in the majority at that time in this area.

The roads were prairie trails around sloughs and across creeks - The Scandinavians adept with skis had a better means of winter travel than walking. There was always the danger of becoming lost as there were few landmarks.

As time went on oxen were purchased and they were faithful animals - being strong and able to pull trees and breaking plough. The settler had few tools - axe, hammer and saw.

As population increased and families grew up, there was a need for schools. The Duck Creek School district was organized in the fall of 1900 and a school building was erected in time to hold school in 1900. The teacher, Miss Armstrong, came from Toronto.

Visiting among one's neighbors was only source of entertainment for a long time but eventually there were gatherings and people came many miles to picnics. The first Meadow Park picnic was held

in 1909. Later there were Christmas concerts in the schools, parties and dances in the homes - music provided by violin, accordian or some one 'on the comb'.

The church also played a part in the development of the community - first services were held in Mr. Waddell's (bachelor home - NE 16-36-12). This is where Eva Harrison was baptised.

By 1916 a United Grain Growers organization was formed and they built a community Hall N.E. ¼ Sec. 20-36-12 which became known as MEADOW BANK HALL. This was centre for all future social events. This building was later moved to NW ¼ Sec 15-36-12 and continued in usefulness until 1967.

The oxen binding on Harrison's Homestead

Submitted by Ruth(Harrison) Shannon

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1918 | Mrs. Robert Gowan | Duck Creek School | |
| 1919 | Miss Noel Blanc | Duck Creek School | |
| 1920 | Mrs. Eleanor McLean | Duck Creek School | Norma Massey & Marion Massey (relief) |
| 1921 | Mrs. Wm. McQuarie(Hazel) | Duck Creek | |
| 1922 | Miss Elizabeth Cameron | Duck Creek | |
| | Miss Helen Summerveld | Rotnum School | |
| | Miss Jean Ingram | Rotnum | |
| 1923 | Mr. George Philbin | Duck Creek | |
| | Miss Mary Cherry | Rotnum | |
| 1924 | Miss Elsie Brice | Rotnum | |
| 1925 | Mr. Percy Heffern | Rotnum | |
| 1926 | Mr. Henry Lowen | Rotnum | |
| 1927 | | Kelvington High School | |

In 1918 I started school at Duck Creek with Mrs. Gowan in charge. I was six years old and had three miles to travel. My mother drove me to school in the morning with Pat and the buggy. She returned home each day to face the breakfast dishes. We walked home after school. Sixten Linden gave me a ride on the handle bars of his bike which was a good lift as far as the Linden gate. Phyllis Gowan was my age mate and class mate. She had black curls and was chubby and cute. I had straight mouse colored hair, was skinny and had freckles. I learned to read and to sing God Save the King. The King at the time was George the 5th and his picture with that of Queen Mary graced the school wall.

Miss Blanc was a French girl who had a deep interest in nature study. She instilled an interest in reading which has lasted throughout my life. I read David Copperfield among other books that year and learned to sing the French National Anthem. We learned to name the authors of everything in our readers. We were still using at the time the Old Ontario Reader.

Mrs. McLean was the sister-in-law of the Inspector of schools for the area and her neices the Massey sisters relieved her for a time. I adored them both but did not adore Eleanor McLean. She stayed with us for a time that year and I had the honor of sharing her room.

Mrs. Hazel McQuarie was a favourite teacher who drove a horse all the way from the farm at Kelvington each day. Her neice Martha Templeton came to school with her for a time. I do not remember for how long.

Miss Elizabeth Cameron died shortly after she taught at Duck Creek. She did not survive surgery in the Wadena Hospital.

Helen Summerfelt married a bank manager from Kelvinton. He was a widower with two daughters. When Helen left, Jean Ingram took over the school. I remember that she saw us through the Christmas concert which in those days marked the end of term. Mr. Riley who was for many years the principal of Wadena school came out to act as chairman for that concert. Jean later married Mr. Riley and they were both killed with their small son in a car accident at Wadena.

In the spring of 2) I went to Duck Creek school for only a few weeks, but I remember Mr. Philbin because he encouraged my literary efforts. We returned to Rotnum when it opened with Miss. Cherry in charge. She was an excellent teacher and when winter came she used to walk from her boarding place at Carl Hanson's by 7 a.m. to have the old heater going before we arrived. Two important events occurred for me that year. I broke my arm while playing with Ethel Berg.and at their farm and I inherited the horse duties from my older sister when she left for Kelvington High School. A less competent horse person probably did not exist. Leonard and I started out each morning with an old buckskin named Jean.

Elsie Brice was a quiet, gentle lady who was very young to take charge of a country school. She later died under surgery in Madena hospital. The Tweidt family arrived that fall and Mabel and Alfred with Melvin joined our ranks.

Percy Heffern rode a bicycle to Kelvington for the weekends. His friend Henry Loewen took over the following year when I was in grade IX. In September I left for Kelvington and Grade X. That last year Ethel Berglund did not come to school, I lost my sidekick.

Submitted by Sylvia VanBreinnen (Harrison).

Happy times at Rotnum School do seem to centre around the "big slough" We would hurry through our frozen lunch to get into cold rubbers which had been left in the cloak room while we were learning to multiply, hike to the slough to slide on the ice which peaked out from among the cat-tails and bull rushes. Spring time brought floating muskrat houses, red winged blackbirds, and the Wilson phalarope twirling in the open water, an exciting memory.

In a drought year, a corduroy road was laid through the slough providing a lesson in that aspect of engineering.

The other important thing in school was the stove, do you remember the cold day we sat around and blew bubbles, big bubbles, all the colors of the rainbow- until they were broken- by the bell? Mr. Leitch, that was mean.

TRIBUTE TO THE HARRISONS submitted by Doreen Tweidt.

Mrs. Harrison was an avid gardener. She loved her flowers, and I'm sure that every blossom had a smile for the tender loving care they got. Her shrubs were gently tended, and also flourished. She had a love of nature that has manifested itself in her family as well. She knew every plant's name, wild or otherwise.

Mr. Harrison was well known for his singing. He always had a happy tune while he worked. I can remember the way I enjoyed his songs, as he walked down the road on a cold winters night, with the sleigh runners making their own music on the snow. The horses bells ringing from the strap that attached them to the harness. And Mr. Harrison singing for the love of live, the joy he felt.

He raised some of the finest cattle and pigs that I have ever seen, sure the largest.

Both were the ultimate as neighbors. And I must add that the family has carried on this fine trait.

Ethel Hoard. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Dann.

Russell was the son of Emma Richard Dann and came to Saskatchewan from Ontario.

He married Mabel Ness, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ness, who lived four miles south of Wadena on the land now farmed by Ken Jones. The Ness family had come to the Wadena area from Thornhill, Ontario.

Russell and Mabel along with his brother Guy, took up farming on the N½ 1, east of Wadena later coming to the Rotnum district where they farmed on N.W.¼ 17- 36-12.

There were six children in the Russell Dann family, the eldest being Ethel who attended Rotnum school in 1929, moving from the district in 1930.

The brothers were noted for the nice horses they kept on the farm and it was quite an exciting scene for the school children to watch the Dann brothers moving a building past the school being pulled by horses. These buildings, a barn and a horse, had been built in Wadena and moved out by horse power.

Russell became ill and was unable to work for much of his latter years, passing away in Winnipeg on July 13th, 1930.

Mrs. Dann, now age 75, resides in Thorndale, Ontario.

I am married to Gordon Hoard and we live on the farm east of Wadena.

MR. & MRS. NELS HOLSTEN FAMILY

Mr. & Mrs. Nels Holsten and family of two children came to the district by train in 1906, bringing with them horses, machinery and household items which they had acquired after immigrating from Sweden in 1902.

They settled on a homestead (SE 2-36-13) three miles from the site of Rotnum School (not yet built). They were among the first settlers in the district but were soon very well known, as any of the farmers living in the Rose Valley and Nora area had to haul their grain to Wadena, and travelling with horses the trip could not be done in one day so the Holsten farm became the stop-off place for these tired and hungry travellers.

The Holstens first built a small house which they used as a granary after they built the big two storey log house in 1908.

Mr. Holsten and children did a lot of trapping as their land had several sloughs. Dolly and Gunnar remember going with their dad in the early morning to trap and later helping him skin the animals.

Mr. & Mrs. Nels Holsten Family

After the weary travelers had rested at the HOLSTEN farm, they are getting hitched again to travel further.

The children attended school in Victoria Park and Wolverton. The older ones remember carrying Bert occasionally because it was such a long walk. When the Rotnum School was built in 1922 Violet, Gunnar and Bert attended classes there. By then Dollie was big enough to stay home to work with her Dad doing Man's work, ploughing, harrowing, cutting and stacking great amounts of hay,,running the binder and then doing the milking and taking care of the "stoppers" horses.

When the railroad was extended further north, Mr. & Mrs. Holsten and family moved to Rose Valley in 1923, and opened a cafe there.

Bennie Evenson operated the farm for a short while until it was sold to Arton Faust. Later the same land was sold to N. P. Nelson. Verner Nelson still lives on the same site.

GEORGE HOPE & MAMIE FRAZER submitted by Evelyn Oliver

George Hope and Mamie Fraser were married Nov.12,1902, in Glengary. Hazel was born Nov.9, 1903 in Ontario. They then moved to Marchwell,Sask. in 1904, where Lissie was born May 21, 1905. Gordon was born Nov.25,1906.

They then moved to homestead on NE ¼ 36-35-12 in 1907. Cecil born in March 14, 1908, Kenneth March 14, 1916, Evelyn April, 12, 1919.

The main stopping place for pioneers that travel from Lintlaw and Kelvington to Wadena.

Church service was held in the home. Mr. Hope was active in th Grain Growers and Farmers Union, he helped organize the Willow Glen School were Hazel and Lizzie were among the first students. He also helped organize the Wolverton Rural telephone company.

He raised purebred Aberdeen Cattle. Rhode Island Red Chickens and purebred Berkshire Hogs.

They sold the farm in 1947 and retired in West Vancouver. Mrs. Hope passed away in July 1953 and George in March 1957.

Hazel became a teacher, later married Herb Topping and farmed at Kipling. Then moved to B.C. They adoped three children. Herb passed away Oct. 1973.

Lizzie became a teacher later married James Wright and farmed SW¼ 11-36-12. Had a family of three. When they started High School they sold the farm and moved to Kelvington. Lizzie passed away Jan. 1968. Jimmy in 1973.

Cecil worked for N.B. Mining at Flin Flon. Passed away in May 1965. They had five children, triplets were among the five. Kenneth lives with Hazel's daughter in Delta B.C. And never married.

Evelyn married Bill Oliver, they farmed in the Wadena district and later moved to the town of Wadena, then to B.C. in 1969. Bill had four children. Bill passed away Oct. 1972. Evelyn and Hazel live together in Surrey B.C.

Submitted By Gordon Hope.

We went to Willow Glen School. One summer there was not enough pupils to open the Duck Creek school. Lizzie and Cecil and I attend ed Duck Creek. The teacher was Miss Jean Blanc. We went to school with a horse and cart, following a prairie trail across Sec. 1 and 11.

My father did carpenter work earlier. My father was Scotch and mother ¾ Scotch and ¼ Irish.

I helped move Meadow Bank Hall. First of all we hauled gravel from the gravel pit with a team and sleigh from NE ¼ of 1 for the foundation. We jacked the hall up and put two sets of sleighs under it cross ways. Mr. Jack Coates and I each had a four horse team on the haul, and everything went along very well. A lot of the trip was made down Linden's Lake and there was about a foot and a half of snow to use. It was set down on blocks and left untill spring, to have the foundation put under it. I didn't take part in pouring the cement.

Charles Irving Family.

Charles came out from Scotland in the year 1923, and the story goes that while travelling by train and near the town of Sturgis, he asked the conductor what time it was-- the conductor replied 1923 hours but Charlie not being familiar with that jargon replied, " I know its 1923, but what the H--- time is it??

His first job was at another good fellow Scotsman, Sandy Donald. From there he went to John Prouse's farm. He spent one Winter with Sam Donald, who was still a bachelor and living on the land now owned by Leith Perron, SE¼- 34-36-12. It was only a homestead shack and they woke up one snowy winter morning to find snow on the bed.

Charlie then decided to buy some land,so he purchased the SW¼ 26-36-12, still referred to as 26.

At this time Fred Perry came along and he lived with Charlie and he was to make the Irving's his home for many years.

The Figilan farm came up for sale, NE 22-36-12. As Wm. Harrison was executor for the estate, Charlie went to him with an offer to buy the farm and he must have asked for Eva at the same time,because he says he got it all in the same deal.

Eva was born on the homestead on the south side of Harrison's Lake as we call it, could be called Linden's, or Avery's or Lillejord's Lake I suppose. It is said the mosquitoes became so bad, the family moved to the north side of the lake.

Eva, it is said, was born during a rare January thaw and has never celebrated a birthday since that has had no snow. She was the first baby to be baptised in the Meadow Bank area.

In 1910 Mrs. Harrison and wee daughter went back to England for a visit.

When it was time for Eva to start school, she began at Duck Creek. It was probably about Grade VIII, when she spent a year at Rotnum School. Gunner Holsten was also going to school there and after meeting Eva, his great ambition was to make good grades and marry Eva Harrison!

After completing her schooling, Eva went to Normal school for four months, going to teach in several different places. The depression came and along with it, more teachers than there were jobs, so by this time with a black eyed bachelor in the background, she decided on a new career, Marriage, and she hasn't been out of a job since.

The wedding of Charlie Irving and Eva Harrison took place at her farm home on Aug.21st, 1934. The weather was cold that night and crops and gardens were frozen.

They have a family of three children, Allan Gail and Brian, all born in Wadena Hospital. Eva and Charlie have retired, but choose to stay in their lovely home on the farm, close to their sons and their grandchildren.

The Charles Irving's

Allan and Gail.

Allan Irving Family.

Allan is the eldest of three children, brother Brian and sister Gail McDougall. He began school at Duck [illegible] 2, where he took grades I to 8. In 1953 he went to Kelv[illegible] el Meadbec( Oberg), he was the [illegible], long lashes". In 1955 and 56 he attended the [illegible] re in Saskatoon and then began his farming career [illegible] ght from Pete McInnis.

[illegible] e married a [illegible]rse, Carroll Barbara Fennel of [illegible] ills. They have five children.

[illegible], loves figure skating and now attends a school of Optom[illegible] etr at [illegible] ersity of Waterloo, Ont.
David [illegible] e will grad ate from Kelvington High this year and he loves carpentr .
Gail is a hockey fan and longtime member of Hendon 4-H.

Dale [illegible] loves hockey and figure skating, plays the trombone and sings.
Tam, figure skates and plays trumpet, and also sings.

Gail (Irvin[illegible] o Gail

Gail Isabell Irving was born in Wadena Union Hospital. Went to Duck Creek for [illegible] er first four years of school. In 1949 Gail went to Grand [illegible]era se[illegible] Duck Creek closed.
She completed her schooling in Kelvington High School and trained in [illegible]oose Lake Providence Hospital for a registered nurse.

She married Jack McDougall in 1967 and they reside in Saskatoon. They have two daughters, Sandra and Brenda.

Brian Irving.

Brian is the youngest of the Irving family, taking all his schooling in Preeceville and Kelvington. He then attended Agricultural College in Saskatoon. He worked during the winter months with Can Farm at Tisdale and farmed during the summer months.

It was while working in Tisdale, he met his future wife Ann Marie [illegible]agnan. They were married Nov. 4th, 1978.

They have also built their home on the Figlen place, adjacent to Brian's parents and across the road from his brother Allan.

Bert married the former Alice Whaley in Dunrea, Man. where she was a dressmaker.

In 1906, Bert and his brother-in law, Mr. Waley came to the Meadow Bank district, seeking homesteads.

Then in 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Johns, her mother, Mrs. Palmer moved in company with the Whaley family, to settle on their homestead . Bert filed on the SE ¼- 4-36-12.

The trip was made by team and wagon, taking ten days to complete the trip.

Mrs. Johns was Auntie Johnny to a lot of people. They sold there land to Alex Clark in 1949, and retired in Hendon where they both passed away.

Frank Johns

Frank Johns was the son of Sarah and Willes Johns. They lived on the former Bigelow homestead, the NW ¼-2-36-12, just east of the Jim Messenger farm.

Frank attended Duck Creek School in 1921 riding a big white horse named "Skinner".

Later the family moved to Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones- by daughter Connie Lillejord.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones (the former Emily Beatrice Messenger) came to Canada in April 1912, living on mother's brother's farm (the present Ted Coates residance).

Dad helped neighbours during this year and in 1913 worked for Cliff Lee's uncle, Mr. Bill Lee.

In the spring of 1914, they purchased the homestead of Mr. Elof Anderson, NE ¼-10-36-12 and later the SE ¼-10-36-12 from Mr. Gust Faust.

In the 1920's they made further purchases of land from a Mr. Fred Hill, ½ sec.1-36-12, who had acquired this parcel of land from the Soldiers Settlement Board as a soldier of World War 1. Fred didn't care for farming so went to work in the Robin Hood Mills in B.C, and was later killed in a mill accident.

Dad had been a foreman at a large watch factory, Field and Platts and also had worked at Moorelands Machinists, where they turned out large pistons. He had done seven years apprentice and worked 20 years at these factories.

People wondered why this jovial Welshmen with his wife, a teacher of twenty years in England, had ever decided to come to Canada, a land suited only to hardy pioneers.

When asked why they did decide, Dad said he came to rough it because you always lived in fear of being laid off at the factory or being late punching the clock.

So most of all, the idea of being your own boss was good, plus the fact that 160 acres of your very own sounded like a gold mine.

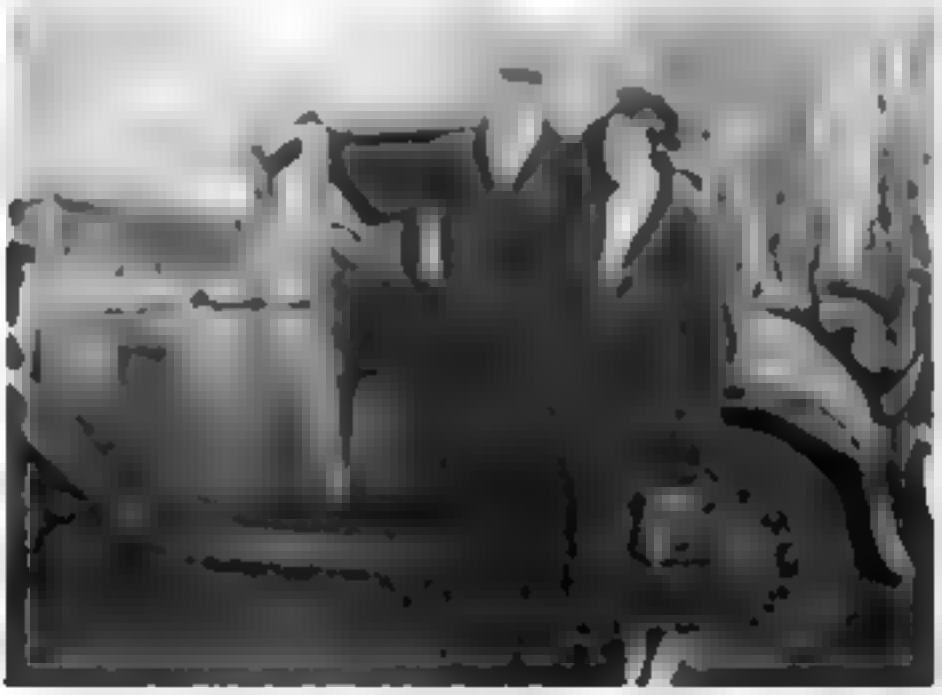
I was born 1910 in the city of Gloucester, England. I had no brothers or sisters, but Mom and Dad raised a boy who was known in the community as Mac Jones. Later Mac went to work in the Mines and then he took his fathers surname, so he is now known as Edward Charles Spencer.

My grandmother, on my mothers side, Harriett Messenger came to live with us and passed away at our home after a long illness. I will

well.

harvest and fall work. This was in 1924 or 25.

to Helmer Lillesford of Hengow.



Helmer and Connie setting out for the Whilten Ranch.

work for Dad, living on the

and we come to live and care for

, prunes, apricots and apples which came in

safely home again.

was, so I knew she told the truth.

efforts as well.

could turn the cream to butter.

twice weekly, Mondays and Fridays.

to be in the little town of Hendon, west of us.

of Kelvington)
kids used

[illegible] to town.

[illegible] slippery when it rained.

[illegible] it had rained [illegible]

[illegible] h the old plugs [illegible] l to give them a fresh start.

[illegible] ghbors homes for a friendly chat. I remem[illegible] talk of one of the [illegible] and Mrs William[illegible]

The homes, [illegible] music was fiddle, [illegible] or even a comb if need be. The ladies always [illegible] ck, the horses always knew the way home. [illegible] ll and heated with the old wood cook stove [illegible] They referred to them as [illegible] e room, when you [illegible] got the fire going, and [illegible] ld be cool again, unless you kept pushing

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kiland

Joe Kiland was the son of Tom Kiland, who came from Moorehead, Minnesota to take up a homestead or what is now the Koch farm near Hendon.

Joe married Clara Everson whose mother had homesteaded in the Rotnum area. Their marriage took place in 1913 and was the second marriage to be performed in the Scandia Lutheran Church, which still stands at Hendon corner.

They made their first home in Madora where Joe was agent for the Imperial Oil Co. He later homesteaded what it presently the Arden Johnson farmstead, near the town of Hendon.

Clara and Joe had five children, three sons and two daughters. The eldest son Norvald died as a result of an accident while still a child, and later second son Arthur in a heavy machinery accident.

Joe and Clara lived in the Rotnum district for a time before settling in Hendon in the 1940's where he operated the dray, and in later years was driver of the Co-op Oil delivery truck.

While in the Rotnum district their home was on the SE ¼-24-36-13 and the three younger children attended the Rotnum School.

Agnes is now Mrs Ben Reggenwetter of Alberta.
Frances is now Mrs Don Corrins of Saskatoon.
Orville of Buck Creek, Alta.
Joe and Clara retired to a home in Mount Royal Court in Saskatoon where they enjoyed their retirement until Joe's death in April 1963 due to a car accident.
Mrs. Kiland is still very active and continues to live in Mount Royal Court.

George Koch--by daughter Caroline Donald

George Koch was born in Austria, Germany in the year 1876.

His early youth, he recalls was spent herding cattle on the hills, later taking up the trade of lock smith.

In 1905, he came to Canada working in the Balgonie district where he met his future wife, Rose Klass, also of Austria, Germany. She was working at Regina Hotel at the time.

In 1908 they were married in Govan, Sask. and farmed there for twelve years, as well as doing carpenter work. Later, they moved to the Kelvington area, where they farmed in the Meadow Bank district.

Mr. and Mrs Koch had seven children, six of these children attending Duck Creek school, until the family moved to the Art Hanson place and then on to High Hill.

Caroline Donald of Kelvington, Otto and Ernest of High Hill, Sask Edith Vickery of Calgary, Bertha Zerff of Kelvington, John passed away in 1936 and Frank in 193[illegible].

In later years Mr and Mrs Koch built a house in Kelvington and retired there. Mr Koch passed away in the Kelvington hospital on his 77 th birthday.

Otto Koch.

I was the son of George and Rose Koch who came from Govan to the Meadow Bank district and rented Charlie Barker section. My father farmed and did carpenter work.

We children attended Duck Creek School while living in the district and I remember quite a few of my classmates, the Gowans, the Harrison girls, the Donalds, the Drummonds, the Bjerke children Sam Lancely and the Fred Jones children as well as Maeie Augustus.

In 1944 I married Marie Smith and we have six children. Orvill David, Russell, Rose Marie and Jimmy. They are all married and we have twelve grandchildren.

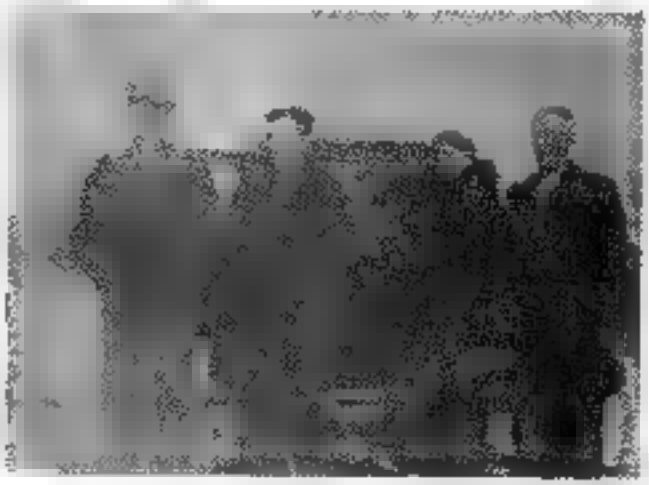
Matt Lang Family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang came to the Rotnum district and lived on the Carl Peters Ranch.

They came to the area from Duff Sask. And both Mary and Matt Lang were of German descent. They had a family of five children. Gibert and Alvina both attended Rotnum School. Elmer, Wilmarie and Marlene were not old enough to go to school then but lived in the Nut Mountain area for most of their schooling.

What always will stay in my mind is when Elmer and I would ride over to Mack's and Gus would cut our hair. And we would listen to some of Grandpa Mack's stories about the first World War, and then the many hours spent riding horse back herding cattle and driving them to the Meadow Bank Lake for water.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lancely;



Mr. and Mrs. Lancely Sam and Albert

Mr. John Lancely was born in Cheshire, England. He came to Canada in April 1905. Settling at Cupar, Sask., Later moving to Churchbridge, Sask. where he was married to Miss Mary Gibson, who came also from England.

In 1908 he came to the Meadow Bank district and filed on a homestead, SW¼ 24-36 -12. Mr. and Mrs. Lancely were hardy pioniers and saw and enjoyed life to the full They had two sons, Albert an Sam .

Sam now has moved into Kelvington, where he has retired.

Mr. Lancely, ever interested in education, served on the Duck Creek school board from 1919 to 1946 when the school was dissolved.

Mr. and Mrs. Lancely were pioneers in many respects, having the first radio in their community in the early days of AM10. And one of the first cars as well.

COPY OF FILE # 806367.

This was made out to Mr. J. Lancely of the [illegible] area. Showing the requirements for receiving title to a [illegible] in Saskatchewan:

Mr. John Lancely Age 37 years, [illegible]

Property [illegible]

Livestock 1

Lumber Stable $ 70.00

Well $ 20.00

1911 1 cow . . . 2 oxen

12 x 24 . . . log and lumber house $300.00

1 mile wire fence $ 35.00

Saw lumber and well dig

Witnessed by Mr. John Gowan

1909 . . . broke 10 acres . . . cropped 0

1910 . . . . broke 10 acres . . . cropped 10 acres

1911 . . . broke 15 acres . . . cropped 20 acres

December 1st, 1911. Finished house and moved in.

Submitted by Phyllis (Parish) Little

Phyllis Little has many pleasant memories when she was working at the Larceley's. In the spring of 1937 she recalls needing some help to do housecleaning. Mr. Lanceley suggested going to get Rosella Avery. Which she did. She took old Jean, the pony, hooked it onto the buggy and proceeded on her way. She went through the Parish yard where her mother wanted to go along for the ride. It was the spring the water was high. They got to their destination and picked up Rosella. On their return home they had to cut off right by Fred Jones' corner where you go through the water. We got about 25 yards into the water and Jean decided she didn't want to pull so laid down. I got out

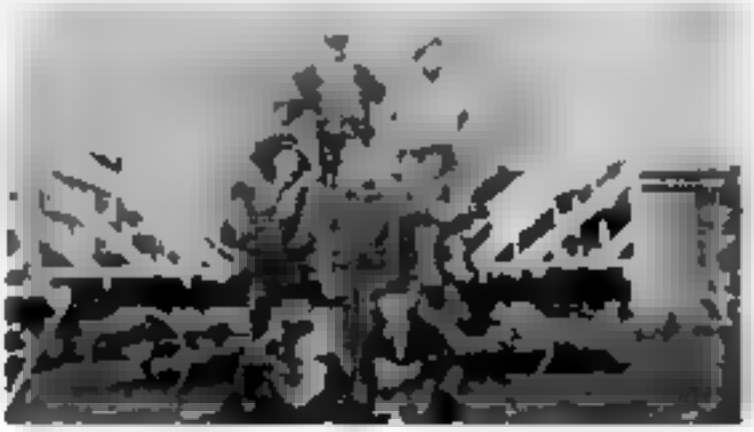
loosened the harness, but she just about refused to get up and get out of the water. I decided to go and get Jones' (Jones) Lakeford who informed me that bear was good to pull with the saddle. Connie and I rode out along a sled with a long rope. She dressed Jean with the saddle, tied the rope onto the [illegible] and got on bear. She said, "get up", but she nicely, laid down with Connie on her back.

At the time, my brother, Tom was working at Jones'. Connie and I went and got him off the field where he was using four horses. Tom willingly came out with a four horse outfit and pulled us out, after a lot of cheering. Bear and her passengers proceeded on their way home to Lanceley's.

When Sam saw us coming into the Lanceley yard, he very well knew what had happened. Jean looked like a drowned rat, and Rosella and I certainly didn't feel like doing housecleaning.

Mr. Lanceley was very active on the Duck Creek school board, where he served for 39 years. He was very fond of children. They would have picnics along the shores of Meadow Bank Lake, Mr. Lanceley always chose to look after the little children. He would line them up and pass "out", to their delight, a prune each. He had a chocolate bar for them all.

How we kids used to look forward to Christmas and Santa Claus. Mr. Lanceley was the one and only genuine Santa Claus which we ever had. He lived and died with the spirit which made the purpose of Christmas so wonderful. What a heritage he left behind [illegible] a well known and respected [illegible].



Sam Lanceley, Mr. Gowan, Ed [illegible], Ted [illegible], Bill [illegible], Albert Lanceley and a Sheriff [illegible] and old Ted, the dog

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Laderoute

Joe Laderoute was born in the Pelly district and as a young man went to Kelvington in 1928 and worked at the Parr Sawmill at Round Lake. In April 1933, At that time he moved to Kelvington working,

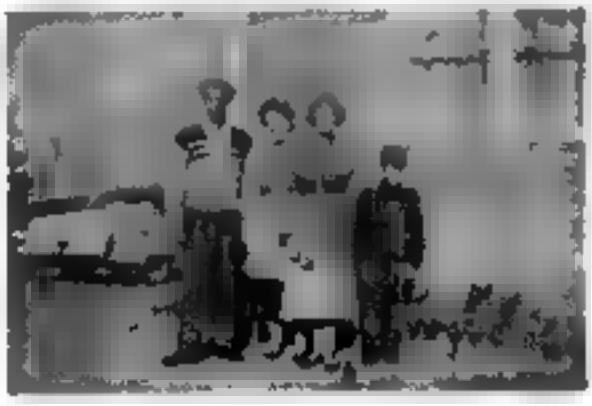
at any job that was available, mainly a farm laborour.

In 1938 he married Leona Pawlowski who was born at Tynyard and had spent her teenage years working as a hired girl in the surrounding area. After their marriage they moved to the Meadow Park District and took up farming on land located 1 mile south west of Duck Creek School and 4 miles East of Rotnam School. In the fall of 1939 a daughter Muriel was born.

In the winter of 1942 due to the hard times the family left the farm and went to Carrot River where both Mother and Dad worked in a sawmill owned by Mr. Cliff Cloggett. Dad ran a steam engine and Mother worked as a camp cook.

In the spring they again returned to the farm and that fall a son Robert was born.

At this time the family lived in a two room shack. One year Dad being very artistic whipped up a tub of wood ashes, lime and water and our place was a glistening white on the outside.



Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pawlowski

Muriel started school at Duck Creek in the fall of 1945 under Miss Frances Reed and went there until the school was closed in 1949. This closure was due to a very small enrolment of children at this time, I believe 7 the last year. She then went to [illegible] school. This school presented problems getting there especially in the winter months taking Dad at least 1 hour to get there by car. One winter she boarded with the [illegible] for about 2 months because of this.

Robert started school there in 1951. [illegible] time transportation was usually horse and toboggan in winter, horse and buggy in spring and bikes in the summer.

Both continued school there until 1954 when the family moved to spend a winter in London. The education was finished in London and Wadena.

Joe and Leona continued to farm at Meadow Park until 1965 when they sold their farm and retired to live in Kelvington where they still reside.

Muriel married Harold Oberg from Vendor in 1962 and since then they have lived at the West Coast in the Surrey area. They have 2 daughters. Harold works with the Burnaby School Board and Muriel is a Telephone Operator in New Westminster.

Robert married Sharon Poncelot from Neecham in 1964. They too went to live at the coast in the Port Coquitlam area. They have a family of three. One son and 2 daughters. Robert has his own plumbing business there.

Stanley Larson

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Larson, who lived on NE ¼-7-36-12, for a short time. Stanley attended Rotnum School for only a short time in his first year at school. He was a cousin of Roy and Clifford Rotnum.

Stanley worked for some years in Kelvington at the garage owned by Vern Loway. He was a mechanic of some fame and people sought his services.

Mr. and Mrs Leonard Leepart

We came to the Duck Creek district the year of 1933 and farmed on the E½ of 23-36-12, north and east from the school. We left the district for a year, returning the fall of 1935 and remained for a short time until December 1935. Then we came to the Rotnum school district with our family of two Earl and Eilien and located on the S.W.¼ of 6-36-12, where we still remain. From 1941 to 1946 Faye, Nola, Ellery, and Darold joined our family tree.

Our family of six received all their public school education at Rotnum.

Submitted by Nola Doreen Hiebert. (Leepart)

Earl, Eilean, Faye, Lorne Darold
Mr. and Mrs. Leepart.

I never did like school, and I sure remember the first day of school. Mr. Harcourt sent grade I to the board and I was so shy I started to cry-- so he asked me what I wanted to do. I very shyly said " Go out and pay" I couldn't say play. The school kids all laughed as I went out-- that school yard was about the biggest and longest place in the whole world. I hated school ever since.

I guess my first and bad experience marked me for the following years, sure is funny isn't it? We played a lot of soft ball in all kinds of weather and and competed with neighbouring schools.

The sports field day was always something to look forward to. Everyone was usually packed in to the back of someones pickup and drove to Wadena. I'm sure the Caragana bushes around the school could tell many, many stories... if they could only talk.

Submitted by Ellery Lorne Leepart.

It was way back in 1950 that I was introduced to the Rotnum School were I served my sentence.

Marcella Scrimstad and Robert Laduhec were my other classmates Marcella was too smart for Robert and I, so she soon left us trailing in the dust, Robert and I were buddies all the way through school. What a bunch of puritans in those days. I recall when we used to choose up sides and have coal fights. I've seen a few heads split open from battles, but what the difference "boys will be boys"!

It is a wonder I grew up to be an adult.

We used to travel the two miles to school by horses. I remember one cold morning, sixty below, when I froze one ear right stiff and thought nothing of it untill I started to thaw it out and that made me dance the disco before it ever was invented.

I remember when us boys had a dog at school and went hunting at lunchtime. One day we heard the dog yapping away and we knew he was chaseing a rabbit, we were all standing in a group stretching our necks looking for the rabbit to try and catch it. When all of a sudden ZAP here was the rabbit kicking, scared out of it's mind stuck between Bradly's legs. Well we all just rolled on the ground laughing and Brad stood there frozen with an unexplainable look on his face, the rabbit then kicked loose and continued on it't way. This all happened so fast that it was actually over in no time.

As far as teachers ( cruel people) I don't remember how long I had each, first.. Wilf Harcourt, Frank McGrenera, Mrs. Gutek, and Don Leitch.

The big events as far as school was, while I was there was the conversion from wood oil stove, so you didn't come to school and no place to warm up if the fire wasn't lite. And find your ink frozen so you had to write with an unfreezable pencil until your ink got thawed out. And then the bussing of high school students until the final closeing of school.

I beleive the most thrilling parts for me was our concerts, that was really great. The first step to stardom. It's too bad that we were never discovered.

That seems to be all I can muster up for you outside of the Meadow Bank fields meets which was good competition.

Submitted by Faye Peterson (Leepart).

I was born to Leonard and Mary Leepart, to join a brother and sister, Earl and Eileen. We were later joined by Nola, Fillery and Darold. Our home after our short stay in the Wadena hospital was the S.W.¼ 6--36--12, and still is home for my parents today.

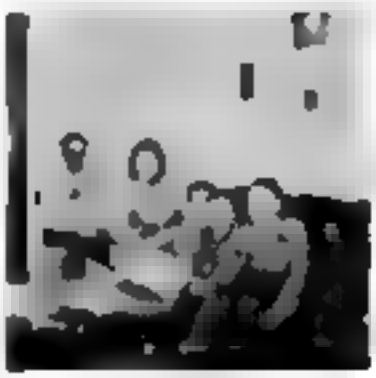
Dad was born and raised in the southern part of the province being the son of a farming family. His family packed up and moved to the Kelvington area in the early 30's when the prairies became a dust bowl during the dry years.

frozen clump that caught their fancy.

school was full of brothers, sisters, [illegible] and grandpa. [illegible] of faces, [illegible] set from the [illegible] prompt, from [illegible] life, it was pr[illegible] came through with the parts that had [illegible] been memorized. It was ended with all of us students on [illegible] COMES SANTA CLAUS", to have him generally [illegible] ten us half to death with his "Ho, ho, [illegible] we were done and could finally jump off [illegible] patiently wait until he called our name [illegible] read[illegible], nuts, peanuts, apples and ora[illegible] event for each of our Christmas concerts.

Another great time for most of [illegible] and we began practicing for fields da[illegible] broad jump, triple [illegible]p, all throw, [illegible] effort put into [illegible] re[illegible] ea[illegible].

Rotnem School took the shield for [illegible] four [illegible] row. [illegible] four years [illegible] [illegible] a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]



Allan & Gerald

Married Mary Rennie in December 1939, had a family of four, Gerald, Dianne, Allan, Bev.

We were in the beef ring like many Meadow Bank families. In the thirties when it started, Nick Althouse who was the butcher and cut up the beef. It was delivered with team and buggy. Later Hank Althouse took it over for his Dad. There were more cars in the country, so everyone took turns delivering. We like a lot of others had a share, then you took up [illegible] beef every other year. It was the only means of getting fresh meat in the summer months.

We took part in several three act plays. Put on to raise [illegible] Lissie Pritt was the director. They would [illegible] Meadow Bank, Hardy, [illegible] Stanley. It was a great [illegible] electricity came in 1934, [illegible] dances, etc. We was on the [illegible] school board and [illegible] trustee of Ashen from 1958 to 1971.

One of the social events was the quilting bee. Everyone had wool carders. From the rejected ones carders were [illegible] and [illegible] small took their turn [illegible]. Or it was all done by hand. The top was sometimes made out of different designs made out of material that was left from sewing. Then a day or two was read all the neighbor women came over to help quilt. The quilt would be completed before supper. As many as six or seven women would take part.

The Meadow Bank Ladies Aid often made a quilt which would be auctioned off at their annual bazaar in the fall, and would raise a good [illegible] to help out the [illegible]. They also made one and gave it to the all a family when their house burned down.

The first one was the [illegible] that were used for driving. [illegible] we went to was [illegible]. All the old coats and overalls that were past wearing were sewed together to make the top and bottom. The old sweaters and underwear that couldn't be mended any more were used for filling. It was put on a frame and tied with wool to keep it all in place. There were such things as foot warmers that were used when riding in the open sleighs. Then came the closed-in cutter which had a small stove and fire in it. They were a great thing. But you didn't see that well out of them, most of them had windows in the front. Anybody [illegible] died was as the horse always followed the road, and they would always take you home.

[illegible] Gerald Leitch

I was born May 23 1941. They say that I took part in a play when I was two months old. They had to have a baby and didn't

want to use a doll. They took me, but I didn't have to go to practice.

All the children went to dances and parties. When we got tired we were put to sleep on coats or blankets on the stage with the music. Meadow Bank had bunks in the kitchen made for children to sleep in.

I started school with Wilf Harcourt as the teacher. We had school bonspiels in Hendon rink every year. All the country schools in Hendon took part in it.

I was in the 4-H Beef Club. When judging was finished, we led our calves to the stock yards and went home. When the train came, our calves were shipped to Winnipeg. We had nothing to show for our calves but a ribbon until the cheque came in the mail.

When I finished school, I helped on the farm and am still farming.

Submitted by Allan Leitch

I was born March 12, 1943 and went to school at Rotnam. I took part in School bonspiels, field meets, ball games, Christmas concerts, Hendon 4-H Calf Club.

We had chores to do after school and in the winter time cattle and horses to feed, wood to carry. In summer milk cows to get home then turn the separator and feed calves. When I finished school I helped with farming. One winter I spent in a bush camp at Prince George. In 1945 Dad bought the NE ¼ of 8 from Pop Davis for $6500. in 1970. I moved there to farm and now am married and have two children.

Submitted by Dianne Leitch

I was born on October 18th, 1945 at Madana Union Hospital, the first daughter of Ken and Mary Leitch. I started school in Rotnam on September 1949, with Mr. Wilfred Harcourt as teacher. Starting school with me that year was Ronnie Gutek, Raymond Leitch and Harold Messenger.

I have many memories of those good old school days when playing, learning and other things as well.

When I was in Grade one and having trouble reading out loud to the class , Mr. Harcourt finally got fed up and asked me where were my brain? I calmly told him they were in my stomach. I'm sure he agreed with me. If I didn't learn to read in that first year at school, I got some good basic training in dancing. The oldest girls in the school, Jean Evenson and Eileen Leepart and maybe more, spent their noon hours dancing to the radio and very few records. I was one little girl that was glad when they asked me to dance with them and still enjoy dancing.

One thing I enjoyed about the old one room school was that

how well you were able to play.

aybe a bit of water waiting for you to sit down
o sell every fall, a raffle
he school for Christmas. What ever amount each
o pick anything out of Eatons or

ways meant that not all
of December. But

I married Glen Gradin in November, 1961 who was driving a transport out of Regina at the time. In 1962 he started working for the Co-op. During the fifteen years he worked with the Co-op we lived in Seymore, West Bend, Kelvington, Lintlaw, Saskatchewan, Swan River and Arborg, Manitoba, then to Landis, Saskatchewan. In 1976 we bought NW & NE 33 - 35 - 12 west of Kelvington and we are all enjoying the life of the farm. We also have a school bus which I drive.

We have four children, namely Elaine, June, Elwood & Sharon all attending school in Kelvington.

Submitted by Beverly Lee (Leitch)

I was born May 12, 1960 to Ken and Mary Leitch. I started school at Rotnum in 1966 and attended there until the school was closed in 1968. For my first six years of school I had D.E. Leitch for a teacher and for the final year I had Lloyd Nelson.

I have many good memories and the my school days at Rotnum. The annual Christmas concert was the highest event of the year. We always enjoyed all the hours of rehearsing - a good way of getting out of school work. Then on the big night it seemed like Santa was always late as he would get stuck on Sutko's hill.

Judy Tweidt, Lowell Tweidt and I started school together and graduated together from the Wadena Composite High School in 1978. In 1980 I graduated from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences with a Diploma in Nursing. While single I worked in Moose Jaw, Nanaimo, British Columbia and Saskatoon.

In 1984 I married Ken Lee from Invermay. We've lived in Watson, Kelliher and presently in Porcupine Plain where I'm working in the hospital and Ken is agent for Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Mr. and Mrs Seymour Leitch

Seymour Leitch was born in 1906 in Strathclair, Manitoba. He farmed there till 1942 when he moved to the Rotnum area. He bought a 1/4 sec. of land (S 5-36-12) from the Manitoba Govt and married May Wesseyer in 1943. They moved to the East of (S 5-36-12) where they still reside. They have 3 children, Edith, Albert and Raymond.

Edith was born in 1945 and attended public school at Rotnum. Her first teacher there was Miss Florence Carlson (nee Lovdahl). She took her grade 9 in Rendon and the remaining high school in Kelvington. She married Earl Rud of Rendon and they moved to B.C. where they lived for 5 years. They moved back to Rendon and still make their home there.

Albert was born in 1941 and also attended public school at Rotnum and his high school in Kelvington. He worked at Hudson Bay for awhile and then moved to B.C. He got married there and has 3

children, Linda, Cindy and Douglas.

Raymond was born in 1943 and went to Rotnum School also. He worked for Mac Scramstad at the Auction Market and then went to Thompson, Man. He came back to Hendon and worked for the Federal Grain and married Leona Bergman of Hendon. They moved to Canora where he worked for the Coop Creamery and was transfered to Regina. He has now moved back to Hendon and is farming with his Dad. They have 2 boys, Randal and Kevin.

## Mr. and Mrs Olof Linden

Olof Linden, his wife Ester and small son Sixten Sven came to Canada from Sweden the spring of 1907. They lived for a while with his brother Axel Carlson who had come out earlier and homesteaded on T 12-36-12.

Mr. and Mrs Olof Linden

They homesteaded and started farming on NE 1-13-36-11. There they dug 11 dry wells and still had to haul water or walk their stock to a spring some distance away. There they farmed till 1914, Olof working in bush camps and on railroad construction whenever he could be spared off the farm. Work days at these camps were long, work was heavy and wages one dollar a day.

Lumber camps were often lousy. There were no strikes those days, you either worked hard and shut up, or you got fired.

In 1914, tired of hauling water, they purchased T 1-36-12 from Dan Morrison. Those lakes looked pretty good even if there were a lot of mosquitoes. Water was very important for livestock. They drove to Madena with oxen or horses to sell their products "eggs, butter, beef and grain" and to buy their provisions. In summer, they rode in prairie wagons and in winter sleighs.

Before they had oxen or horses, Olof carried provisions including flour on his back a distance of 20 miles. He also carried his parcels of harness to his homestead. Years went on as well as could be expected, until the big disappointment of 1918.

Mrs. Linden had always wanted and dreamed of having a baby girl. When she was told it was another boy, She was shocked and saddened and I don't think she ever recovered. She named him Harry and put him in a dress. Dresses he hated. One day she had invited company, she put him in a dress and tied it on. He went outside, managed to undo it and take the dress off and come in stark naked. I guess he really disgraced his mother at that. There were a few more of these episodes before he could finally wear pants.

Their first car was an Overland touring. I think it was made by Whippet. It had 1[illegible]-31" tires it had short springs and was very rough riding. The roads were mostly prairie trails and mud holes. In winter the car was put away. There were no heaters, antifreeze or heaters. No one had even invented the caboose with a stove. People rode in open sleigh boxes. They would heat rocks in the oven and wrap themselves in blankets.

When the railway came to Kelvington it made it a lot better for the people of this district. Later the C.P.R. came to Hendon.

In the early 1920's a fellow named Walter [illegible]ard worked at Lindens. He had a good memory and was very good at reciting the Klondike Poems. He later worked at [illegible]ard Hale.

A teacher named Harry Lowen boarded at Lindens in about 1924. Harry and Clinton removed the car body from a model T Ford. They lowered the steering wheel, built a other body of tee [illegible] later resembling a race car. One day when Harry drove it to the yard, he drove right into a new hay stack that the men were still building. Harry and the upset car were completely covered with loose hay. Luckily no fire resulted.

About 192[illegible] Harry was chased off to Rock Creek School. [illegible] sometimes he later he called [illegible] creek. I wonder if [illegible] meeting [illegible] are still [illegible] office. [illegible] had a pony called [illegible]. This pony was later sold to George and Harriet Sutherland of Hendon.

About 1922-23 the Distad family arrived from Northern Sask. Mother settled on [illegible]-12. Along with the Distads came their daughter Inga, her husband Severt and their daughter Evelyn. [illegible] also the Distad's brother Oliver. Evelyn attended Rock Creek School later she attended normal. Lindens and Distads spent Christmas and other festive days together. Mrs. Distad made [illegible] Distad's other daughter Adele and her family the "Kappes" would sometimes come up from Spokane. Their son Stuart also attended Rock Creek school. Stuart also had a younger sister.

Distads farmed here until Mr. Distad passed away in the winter of 19[illegible]. He was predeceased earlier by his brother Oliver. A few years later Mrs. Distad married A.P. "Anderson" store keeper from Hendon and later they moved to B.C.

Lindens had 2 nephews come out from Sweden. Ralf Eliason came out in about 1[illegible] and John Eliason in about 1[illegible]. After learning the English language they worked out mostly as carpenters, some times coming back to Lindens for a time in the winter when [illegible] were good woodsmen and put up a lot of fire wood for Lindens. Ralf passed away in Ontario about 1[illegible], at about [illegible] years. John lives at Farmers, he is an excellent carpenter and cabinet builder.

In the winter months of the 1[illegible]'s men worked on farms for [illegible] months, many evenings were spent playing cards. There were dances in Hendon hall every 2 weeks. The pay for the Orchestra was about $2 admission per [illegible] cents. Had no— free, but please bring [illegible]. A gallon of Concord wine about $[illegible].

One day young Harry was treed by a mad bull. He stayed up there, the bull at the bottom bellowing, bunting and pawing until Glen Meade came on horseback and using a bullwhip drove the animal away. Next day, the bull went to market.

Harry finished school at Duck Creek in June of 1935, he stayed out for one year, then quit Wadena high schoold in June, 1937. That was a happy day.

He stayed at Scott Branscombes. They were real nice people. He will never forget their many acts of kindness.

Tom Parish worked at Lindens for many falls until he got snatched up by a wifey. One day while threshing flax at A.F. Andersons farm, he accidently pitched his sheepskin lined coat into the feeder. Tom never wore that coat again. Some other local boys who worked on the outfit were Joe Ladabec, Ted Avery, Clarence Beckstrand, Tom Ross, Dan Bjerke and Ernie Leepart.

Elof Linden passed away Jan. 1949, age 68. Mrs. Linden passed away Dec. 1971, age 91.

Harry married Phyllis Yockie, 1943. In 1971 they built on SW 22-36-12 and lived happily ever after.

## Mr. and Mrs Edgar Lindsey

Submitted by Cora Forsythe( Lindsey.

I attended Duck Creek School in the spring of 1931 and finished Grade 8 and took correspo dence for Grade 8 at school here. Grade 8 in 1931 was the last year to have to write governmental exams. Dorothy Weaver and I went to Wadena to write our exams.

My father and Mother were farmers at Meadowbank and were for many years. They came from a homestead North of Gravelbourg, Sask. They came to there from North Dakota in 1911. My mother's family name was Allan. My father and Mother were of Scotish, English and some Irish origin.

I went to many dances in the Meadowbank Hall and had wonderful times there,"many, many wonderful memories there". Phyllis Parish and I went together to C.G.I.T. and Eva Harrison was our leader. We had many good times there, we also used to go to church on days in the Meadowbank Hall.

We only lived about 2 years at Meadowbank,and then we lived briefly at Mt Mountain, then bought a farm at Lintlaw and from there left for B.C. in 1935.

# THE FORMATION OF DUCK CREEK SCHOOL

There were quite a number of children in the area east of Meadow Bank Hall and parents were beginning to see the need for a school in which to educate their children. So it was that the Jonas Monson's who had a large family and the Dan Morrisons became involed in organising a school district in 1907.

Mr. Figlen was one of the first board members and Jack Gowan the first secretary of the new school district.

It was to be located in the Rural Municipality #336. The proposed site for the new school was the NW ¼ - 14 - 36 - 12. They chose this parcel of land even if it was in a sort of no man's land because it would be central for the children concerned. Mr. Monson donated the land, feeling that because he had the most children, it would definetly be to his advantage.

They were given permission to build a structure 20 x 28 ft. with four windows on the 28 ft. side and the door on the 20 ft. side, with a window on each side of it.

The men of the neighborhood all pitched in to help build the school with Dan Morrison and Olaf Linden, and Elmer Ahl as supervising carpenter we believe.

The school was ready for occupancy on July 4th of 1909 with 11 children as beginners.

The name chosen for the new school was very original. A creek ran through the property and in the summer was always filled with ducks, hence the name DUCK CREEK .

# Duck Creek #2002

Miss Lizzie Lawrence was the first teacher on record in the registers from Duck Creek School. She taught in the year 1909 and had eleven pupils. Miss Lawrence had come out from Toronto College and boarded at Will Harrison's. As she had to walk to school, Mr. Harrison built a bridge of poplar poles for her to cross the creeks.

Miss Armstrong came out from Toronto College to teach at the Duck Creek School in 1910. She boarded at the Jack Cowan's.

Charles W. Bobb taught at Duck Creek in 1911.

In 1912, Martha Branscombe, wife of Scott Branscombe, came to teach at Duck Creek. Salaries were not high, but it seemed like a small fortune as compared to the salary she had received in New Brunswick. She found her pupils dear and interesting people but her daughter was not able to recall names except for that of the Munsons. She presumes that her mother left teaching there in that year because of being pregnant with her first child but later returned to teach there when teachers were in short supply in 1915.

In 1913, Maurice Sanger came to teach at Duck Creek. He was bilingual, speaking French fluently. He boarded at the Harrison's. The story is told about the bridge over the creeks being undermined by a few of the prank-- sters in the school and one morning the supports gave way, dumping Mr. Sanger in the creek! He was in Regina at the time of the big cyclone in 1912, but he confessed he had slept right through the storm and when asked what he knew of the storm, he replied he thought it was only a heavy dew overnight.

Violet Cameron came to teach Duck Creek taking over from Maurice Sanger in October of 1913.

Jean Agar taught at Duck Creek in 1914.

W. H. Jones taught Duck Creek in 1915. He is remembered as an elderly man with experience. Esther Branscombe came to complete this term.

Goldie Ray Freeman came to teach at Duck Creek in 1916. He boarded with Mr. and Mrs Harrison and drove to school, taking the Harrisons daughter, Eva with him as she was ready to start school.

Esther Scott came to teach at Duck Creek in 1917. She boarded at Harrison's. In later years she married Pat Hendren and they presently reside in the Kelvington district.

Gertrude Gowan, wife of Jack Gowan taught at her home school, Duck Creek part of the year 1918.

In the latter part of 1918, Jeanne Blanc came to teach Duck Creek. She boarded at the Harrison home.

Eleanor McLean was a sister of Mrs. Massey, wife of Inspector Massey. She taught Duck Creek from 1919-1920 and boarded at the John Dehmidt home and went to school driving Albert Lancely's horse and Smiths top buggy. Later she boarded at the Harrison home.

Mrs. Hazel McQuarrie had been teaching school at Kelvington and came to teach school at Duck Creek in 1921. She was the wife of Andy McQuarrie whose home place is now farmed by Mitch Gavron. She drove daily from their farm home just a mile south of the town of Kelvington to Duck Creek and if weather was bad she stayed at the Fred Jones home.

Following Hazel McQuarries period of teaching, George Philbin, a French Canadian gentleman came from Quebec. He had friends west of Wadena by the name of MacKinns. He had taught part of the year in Duck Creek in 1921 and then again in 1923-24.

Elisabeth Cameron, a Wadena girl, whose father was a grain buyer in Wadena, came to teach at Duck Creek in 1922. She later passed away at an early age following surgery.

Percy Heffern was the son of Mr. and Mrs John A. Heffern. of Kelvington. They operated a general store and the post office and also hauled mail from Wadena to Perigord in those years.

Doris Prouse recalls her stepfather, Ed Harmon being

hired by the Hefferns, one year to haul the mail over this route.

Percy, one of a family of eight children, attended Normal School and taught at both Rotnam and Duck Creek. He taught Duck Creek in 1926 when Mr. Jones, gave up his oil business and left Kelvington, Perry took over, later going to Procupine where he operated a store for a time.

He married Florence Duplesse of Perigord. Parry had been a very valued employee of AIR CANADA in Toronto and had reached retirement with them, when he passed away. Mrs. Heffern still lives on in Toronto.

S. J. McLellan came to teach Duck Creek in 1926-1927 for part of the term. She boarded at Fegolin's then later at Elif Linden's.

Mrs Edith Palm came to teach taking over duties from Mr. McLellan. She was the wife of August Palm. They had two sons, Roland and Kenneth. After teaching school at Duck Creek in 1927 she moved to Wolverton to teach. There was now a teacherage at Duck Creek so the family was able to live there.

W. F. MacKennie taught at Duck Creek in 1928-29 for part of the term. Rena Donald(Bien) remembers him as an elderly man who was her first teacher.

Mona McKay, whose father was an early settler and rancher in the Kelvington District came to teach in Duck Creek from 1929 until May of 1934. She lived in the teacherage in Pete McInnis yard. When she left Duck Creek she went to Foam Lake for a month of teaching. She later married Paul Gillis and went to Flin Flon where she still lives.

Eva M. Harrison, a local girl replaced Mona McKay for the month of June in 1934. She had taught at various schools until she married Charles Irving in Aug. 1934.

Martin Bordsen was a married middle aged man who came from Hazel Dell to teach in Duck Creek from 1934 to 1936. They lived in the teacherage and always drove their horse Daisy hitched to the buggy. Later they retired in B. C.

Amy Eskelson, came from Pamaqan where her parents farmed. She taught Duck Creek School from 1[illegible] to 1[illegible]. She boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Irving, her parents with brother and would come to take her home for weekends. She married Franklin [illegible] a farmer from Norquay. They are now retired and live in Lethbridge, but spend their winters in Arizona.

Don Leitch, of Clair Park, came to complete the 1939-40 term taking over from Amy Eskelson who was leaving Duck Creek. He stayed on until June of 1[illegible], for more information see write up in the Retnum story.

Submitted by Joyce Torgeson [Sayres]. 1941 - 1946).

I can truthfully say that although I left Duck Creek many years ago, Duck Creek simply refuses to leave me. Several times a year I have vivid dreams in which I am returning there to teach. Inevitably the dream progresses through the stages where I declare that at this time I will have a telephone this time I will have a car, a refrigerator, a television, and so on to modern day echoes of equipment. At this point, moving seems like too much effort, so I wake up and decide to stay with my position in Burnaby.

Country school houses were cold, stove pipes, but my memories of the people of Meadow Park district are very warm and alive. They opened their hearts and their homes to me and as I look back, were infinitely patient with me, a novice teacher.

Looking back, I am appalled at how little I knew about teaching when I started out and I can only speculate as to whether Lloyd Sayres, Alan Irving and Don Lounden or perhaps learned to read because of my help or in spite of it. I find difficulty to imagine how I ever managed without the books, materials and mechanical aids we have today. To duplicate material was a real project in those days of hectographs made of gelatin coated pans. One sheet of paper at a time pressed on and pulled off, with pleasure only one out of three ripping in the process. So little was available by way of visual aids and reference books.

It was wartime and many great things were done in the name of the Red Cross. At Duck Creek we answered our country's call by doing "woodwork". We cut, sanded and painted many "art" objects which the parents gratefully bought. We organized our own entertainment. A lot of fun was generated by a Red Cross turkey raffle at a Meadow Park dance. We had jokingly agreed that if anyone in the play cast won the raffled turkey - we would have a turkey dinner at my teacherage. Don Leitch won it and so we did follow through. Although the living room was twelve by sixteen feet at the largest, sixteen of us gathered in that little place. Every square inch was occupied except for the stove. People brought not only food, but eating utensils as I wasn't equipped for grand scale entertaining.

The above mentioned play was quite an accomplishment, for a three act play we had to use all available "stage" I must say we made a pretty good stage out of any window except that nobody

should ever expect a Swede to be able to say "foolin" with a southern accent. We took that play to both Nut Mountain and Hendon with teams, cutters and sleighs. I now realise that a lot of our communication had to be done through "Pupil Post" Many were the notes that Wilma Donald and I sent back and forth with Jean and Stuart.

Christmas concerts were not only social highlights of the year, but were certainly a training ground in responsibility, organisation, cooperation and public performance. Time lost to the three R's was probably quite justified in terms of life skills which were gained and the "big kids" (Shirley and Frances Wright, Jean Donald and Ronald McInnes) could tell me just how things were done- and on which day our scenery and props moved, over to Meadow Bank Hall for dress rehearsal. It was like hitting Broadway. I am amazed now that all children participated without question. What was expected of them, they did. Although they probably suffered considerably from shyness or stage fright.

The same was true of a ball team - all were needed, so all who were big enough played. I don't recall Duck Creek setting any records at softball.

The coldest weather I ever experienced occurred while I was at Duck Creek. When the temperature dropped to -54F, Charlie Irving arrived at the school to officially close it down. He packed up my freezes and me and took me home where I spent the better part of a week. I recall helping Eva to piece a quilt on her hand turned sewing machine, a novelty even then.

Coming back to the teacherage after being away for the weekend was always an experience. In summertime, it was simply a case of checking it out to see that nobody else had decided to occupy it in the absence but in winter it was a case of lighting the wood fire, keeping a coat on until the room warmed and pulling the bed apart to warm it in front of the oven door so that it would get the worst of the chill out of it.

Most weekends I managed to get "home" to Kelvington, but as gas rationing was on, it was a case of catching rides. A couple of times a year Wilma and I had well- organised weekends wherein she would bring her mother's sewing machine to my place and we would sew the season's wardrobe. The first of these was when we sewed her bridesmaid dress for Joyce McInnes's wedding and planned a shower for her.

I now wonder how I could ever have stayed alone for two years so far from the nearest neighbours and with no means of communication or transportation, but time went quickly then. My battery radio (purchased second hand for $10, with my first pay cheque) was great company, and I spent a lot of time writing letters to family and friends in the service. Fred Patrick's mailing service picked up at the Donald's mailbox.

It didn't worry me much when the coyotes howled, but I worried a little about running into transient skunks, but I was terrorised by the mice that were competing with me for occupancy of that house. I had to buy a mousetrap to deal with the mice, and I kept track of my successes. I caught 54 mice with that one trap! I have since told the story many times of how I caught 54 mice with one trap. It always seems to illicit the same question-----"all at the same time".

I also had a great concern about fire with my gas lamp and tin stove pipes. Being so far from possible assistance, I always kept a coat within reach of door or window. Any frights I had were fleeting, a wagon load of Indians whooping and hollering through an electric storm in the middle of the night, a lone Indian who came into the yard but never did knock on the door, and the time I was awakened by a horse snorting right outside the open window at the head of my bed. I was relieved to see that it was just a stray that was mowing the school yard grass. There is just no way that I would like to live in those circumstances now, but I was young and very naive!

I always hope that my first pupils learned something from me, as I learned some valuable lessons from them.

Great events were far between at Duck Creek. I recall an airplane flying over, brought about my first lesson on the value of sarcasm in the classroom. So rarely did an airplane fly over, that I permitted the children to look out the window for a minute. After the others had resumed work, Alan Irving (a new grade I, was still craning his neck, so I said "Alan, have you never seen an airplane?" He answered "Sure, but I haven't seen this one yet!", and he continued to look. I now know that children do not understand sarcasm, thanks to Alan.

My very first week of school yielded a lesson I've never forgotten. I rounded a corner of the school just in time to hear a string of invective containing a real concentration of four letter words. Horrified, I asked, "What did you say " he squirmed and blushed and finally said"I just called him a dirty little---- " It was a beautifully modified version of what he had meant in the first place. I knew the moment, it was out of my mouth ,what did you say , that I did'nt want a repetition, he knew it too.- a lovely comeback for six year old.

Many memories of those days seem like yesterday until I am jolted by the realities. The watch I wear to school daily was purchased from Howard Wakefield in Lloydminster with my Duck Creek pay cheque!

Last Sept. had a very special moment for me. Peggy and David Russell arrived at our house with their new little son, and I greeted a fourth generation member of the Sandy Donald family. How could we have guessed so many years ago, that the chain of friendship would stretch over all those years!

Betty Lywood, came to teach Duck Creek, her first teaching position in 1941, staying on until June of 1942. She recalls travelling by train to reach her school, a ride that confused her in directions so badly that it left her for two years with the sun rising in the north and setting in the south. She boarded at Charles Irving's and she now is Mrs. Roy Atkinson, of Saskatoon.

Frances Guest, daughter of Ina and the late John Guest of Wadena, spent a full year teaching Duck Creek in 1945-46. She boarded at McInnes's and also at Avery's.
Frances is married to Mr. Ernest Hage, they live at Archerwill.

Marjorie Allen, she was born in 1903 at Glenboro, Man. to Dr. and Mrs. H.F.Whaley. She married Herman Allen at Bateman, Sask. In Dec. 1926. She taught the 1946-47 term at Duck Creek.

Miss Nora Churchill, came to Kelvington from Invermay and taught Duck Creek School in 1947-48. Upon leaving teaching she became involved with work in the Pentecostal Church.

Mr. Angus McDonald, was a married man with much experience and came to teach Duck Creek in 1948-49, the last term the school was in operation.

Mr. Massey

Norman Massey was school inspector in the area from 1918-1930. He served an area of some 50 miles, so his home was centrally located in the town of Wadena and the family home was the large house on the lot cornering 2nd street which in later years was the home and office of Dr. Fred Jones. His inspection area included both the Rotnum and Duck Creek Schools.

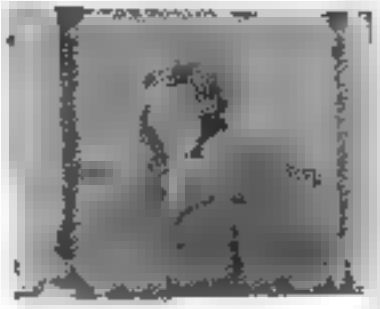
Mr. Massey was a very friendly but quiet person and a dedicated church worker, being a member of the United Church.

He had a family of six children so made good use of his large tennis court(located on the present site of the Del Narfason home) and the Massey home was always "open house".

In the early years he travelled by horse and buggy on his tours of inspection, opening and closing numerous gates, as the prairie trails of those days, usually wound across country and livestock had to be kept inside the fence. As roads improved, he was able to travel by MODEL 'T' car.

Miss Joanne Elsas

Mrs. Edith Palm



Miss. Mona McKay

Miss Joyce Haynes

Mr. Martin Hordson

Miss. Amy Eskelson

Miss. Betty Almood

Miss. Frances Guest



Mr. Don Leitch

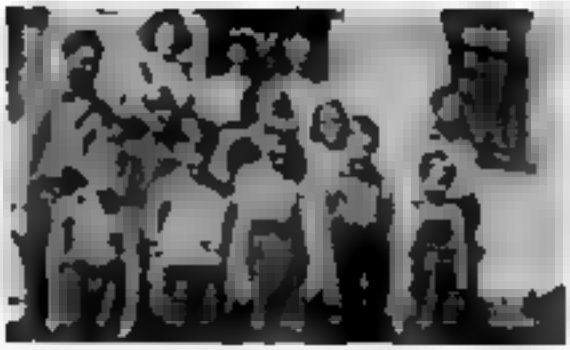
Back row; Ronald McGinnis, Teddy Avery, Wilma Donald, teacher Miss. Amy Lakeland, Rosalia Avery. Center row; Frances Wright, Jean Donald, Shirley Wright, Lennie Prybylski. Front row; Gerald Schmidt, Ruby Avery, Tommy Moore, Amos Avery, Jamey Wright, Verna McGinnis.

Last day of school Dec.19,1919. Back row; Orion Gowan, Lizzie Hope, Phyllis Gowan, Olive Gowan, Ruth Harrison, Eva Harrison. Front row; Gordon Hope, Sexton Linden, Cecil Hope, Albert Lemcley.

1920 back row; Orion Gowan, Caroline Koch, 2nd row; Olive Gowan, May Fuller, Ruth Harrison, Katherine Messenger. Front row; Margret Gowan, Eleanor Fuller, Phyllis Gowan.

Class of '26 when Mr. Henry Lowen was the teacher. Back row; Eleanor Fuller, Phyllis Gowan, Caroline Koch, Van Gowan, Era Fuller, Percy Gowan. Front row; Rena Donald, Edith Koch, Connie Jones, Ken Donald, Ernest Koch, Otto Koch, Sam Lemcley, Albert Lemcley.

1919 back row; Rose Ahl, Sixten Linden Orion Gowan. Front row, Ruth Harrison, Eva Harrison, Albert Lemcley.

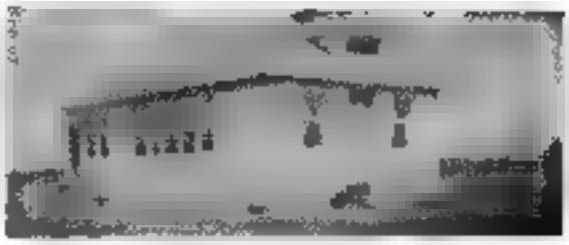


Duck Creek pupils of '42 or '43. Back row; Donald McGinnis, Frances Wright, Shirley Wright, Jean Donald. Center row; Amos Avery, Verna McGinnis, Ruby Avery, Dennis Fryhilaki. Front row; Lloyd McGinnis, Jimmy Wright, Stewart Donald, Clifford McGinnis, Glen Lowndes.

Back row; Frances Wright, Shirley Wright, Ruby Avery, Verna Smith, Verna McGinnis. In front of Vera Smith is Miss. Betty Aylwood teacher. Center row; Clifford McGinnis, Stewart Donald, Amos Avery. Front row; Allan Irving, Lloyd McGinnis, Jimmy McGinnis, Glen Lowndes.

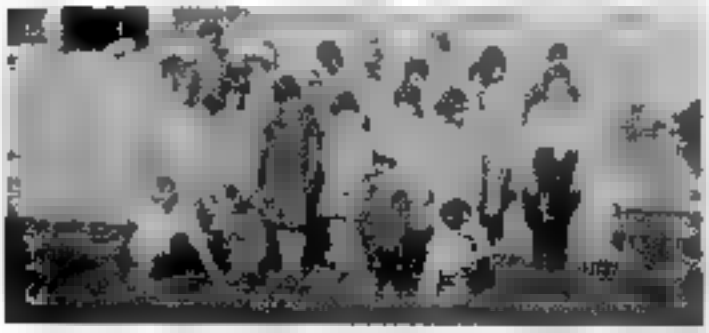
Fun and games were for all ages in all small country schools at any time. These pictures were taken at a Rotaun School Picnic, who do you recognize ?

Back row, Ethel Bergland, Ellen Hanson, Clifford Rotnum, Art Hanson.

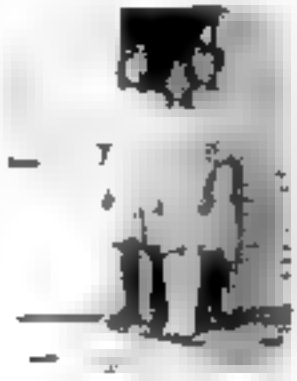


Rotnum School
No. 4347
Sec. 18-36-12

Front row; Leslie Garrison, Leonard Harrisam, Selma Soderquist, Roy Rotnum, Dorothy Evans, Gwen Evans, Ruth Harrison, Linnea Hanson, Magna Carlson, Cliff Rotnum, Hans Hanson, Johnnie Evans.

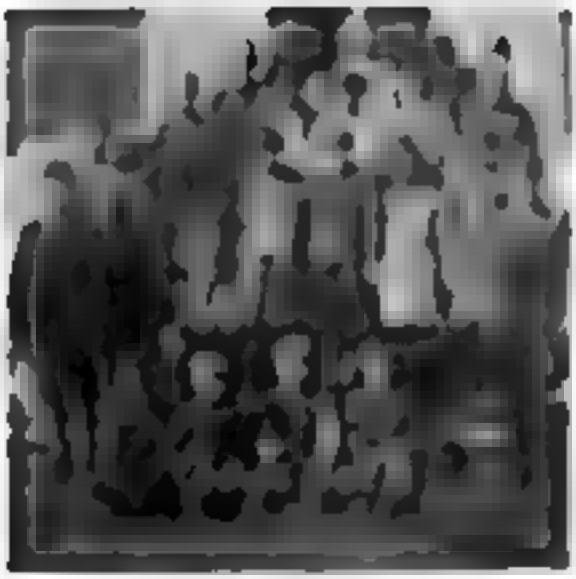


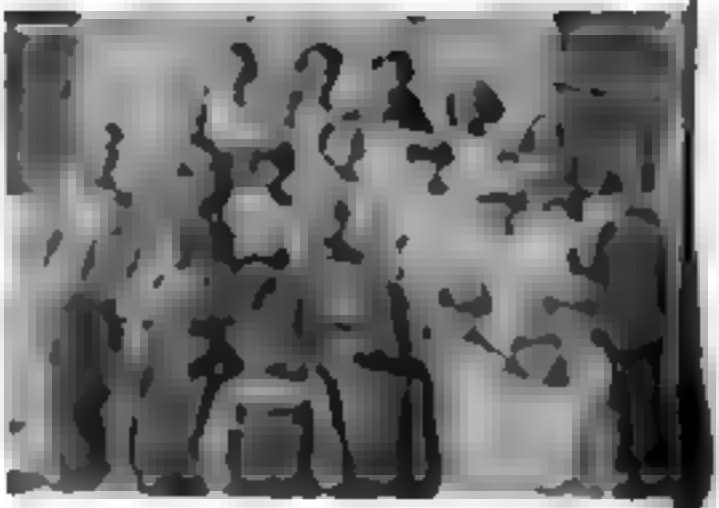
Back row; Charlie Spencer, Alf Twiedt, Mary Evans, Myrtle Torgeson, Linnea Hanson, Gwen Evans, Martin Ostlie. Middle row; . ....., Mable Scramstad, Mable Garrison, Leslie Garrison. Next row; Leonard Harrison, Roy Rotnum, Mac Scramstad, Sylvia Harrison, Dorothy Evans, Lillian Torgerson,.. . , Edith Hanson, Alma Scramstad. Sitting, John Hanson, Bennie Twiedt, Melvin Twiedt, Sonny Evans.



Ethel Berglund
Ruth Harrison
Ellen Hanson

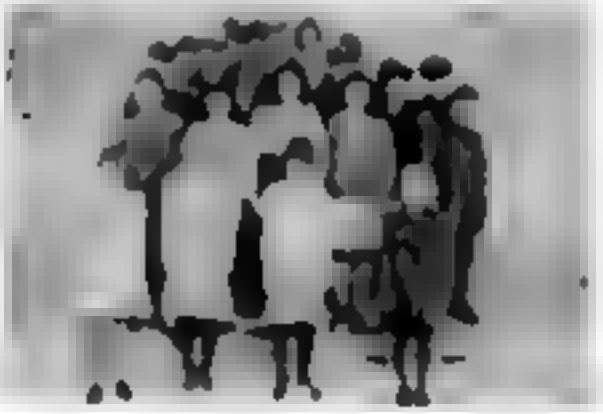
Rotnum pyramids were fun when Charlie Spencer was the teacher and for many years after

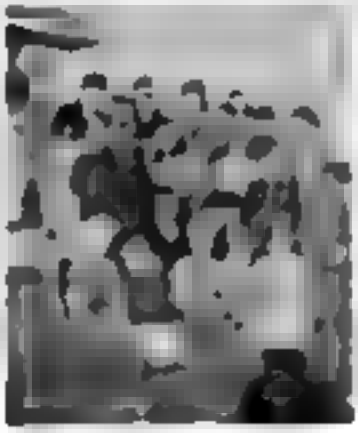




1935 back row; Edith Hanson, Silvia Hampton,....., 2nd row; Sam Tweidt, John Hanson, Glen Ostlie,

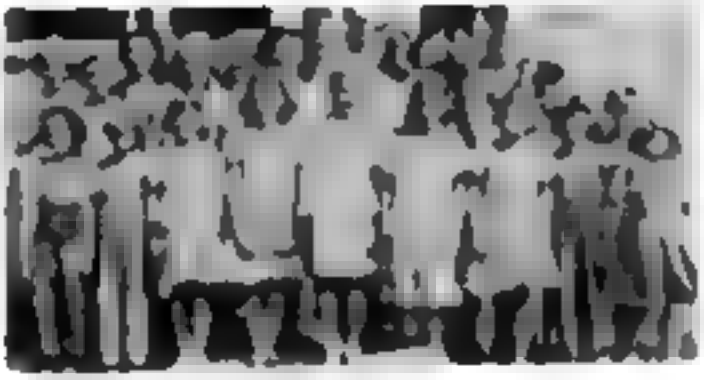
Mat Sramstad & Leonard Harrison, Sitting; Sammy Evans, John Hanson, Melvin Tweidt, Bennie Tweidt.

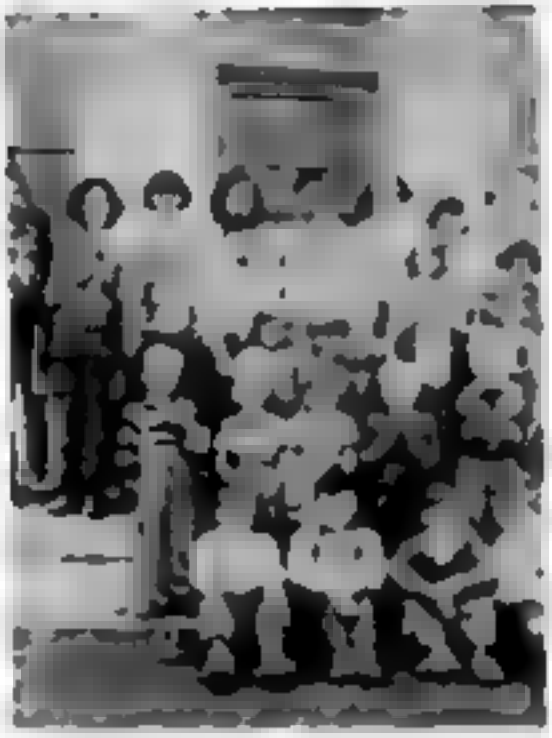




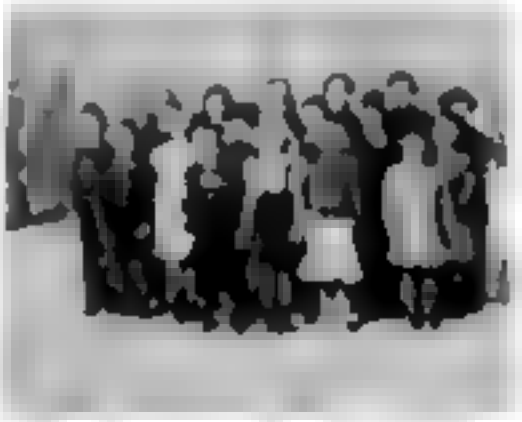
Class of '42, back row; Lillian McCowan, Don Tweidt, Olive Austring, Eileen Evenson,

forgerson, Silvia Harrison, Glen Ostlie. 4th row: Elmie Schau, Martha Nelson, Esther

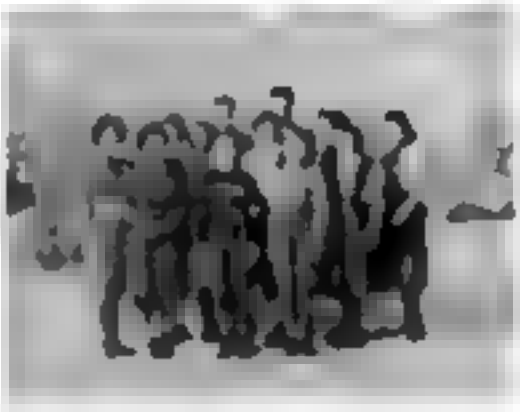




1943 class, back row; Noreen Mack, Joan Wickstrom, June Austring, Eileen Leepart, Louise Mack, Jean Evenson, Earl Leepart, Marion Allen, Leo Malhum, Norman Evenson, Peek-a-boo, Sigfrid Mack, Wayne Scramstad, Elmer Austring, Front; Bernice Mack, Faye Leepart, Carol Scramstad, Ida Messenger, Margret Malhum, Irene Schau, Helen Schau, Edith Leitch, Shirley Austring.



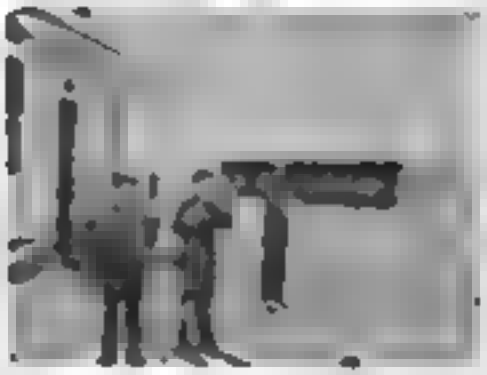
Valentine party 1954, back row, Philip Gutek, Bernice Mack, Faye Leepart, Diane Schau, Albert Leitch, Nola Leepart, Dianne Leitch, Marcella Scramsted, second row, Harold Gutek, Raymond Gutek, Allan Leitch Marie Twiedt, Arlene Schau, Marlene Messenger. Third row, Donna Twiedt, Wendy Ostlie, Brian Anderson, Gerald Ostlie, Darold Leepart. Forth row, preschool, Calvin Twiedt, Lowell Twiedt, Bev Leitch, Curtis Anderson, Bradley Scramsted, sitting, Robert Ladubec, Harold Messenger, Bonnie Gutek, Raymond Leitch.



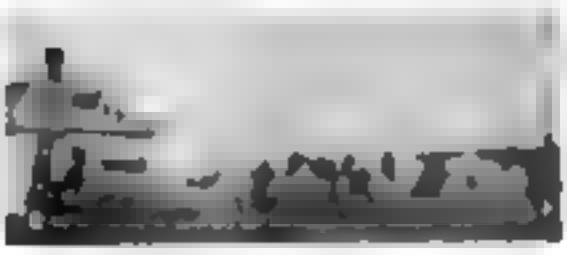
Grade 1 thru 4, 1952, back; Harold Messenger, Nola Leepart, Diane Schau, Gerald Leitch, Albert Leitch, Mike Malhum, Dianne Leitch. Center; Robert Ladubec, Marcella Scramstad, Bonnie Gutek, Raymond Leitch, Ellery Leepart, Leslie Mae Scramsad, Front; Raymond Gutek, Marie Twiedt, Arlene Schau, Marlene Messenger.

Grade 5 and up, 1952, back; Murial Ladubec, Shirley Austring, Margret Malhum, Carol Scramstad, Elmer Austring, Edith Leitch, Wayne Scamstad, Joan Wickstrom, Front; Philip Gutek, Faye Leepart, Helen Schau, Irene Schau.

## HOW DID WE GO TO SCHOOL?

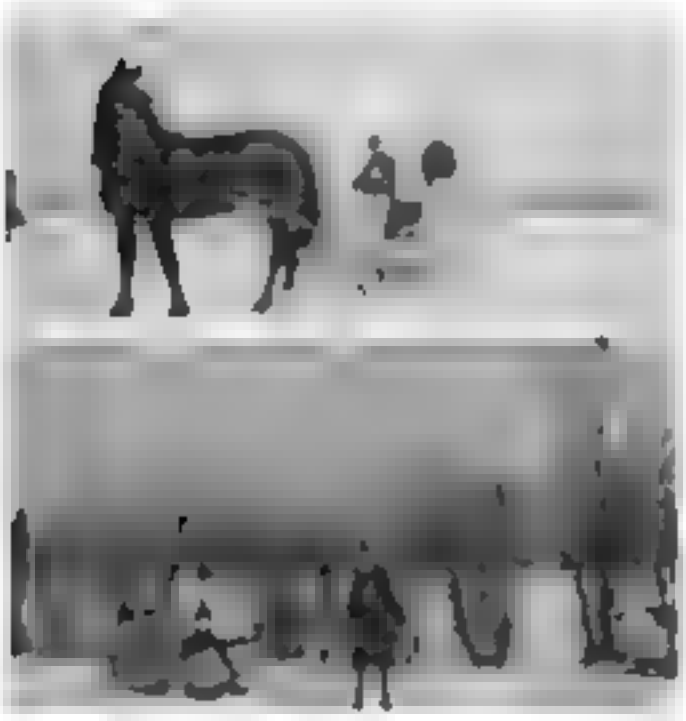


On skis, Don Twelst, Verner Nelson & Norman Austring.



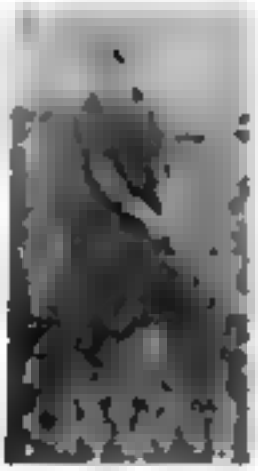
The horses were used in various ways. Can you name the students and the horses?

If Verner Nelson's arms got tired he would find help.



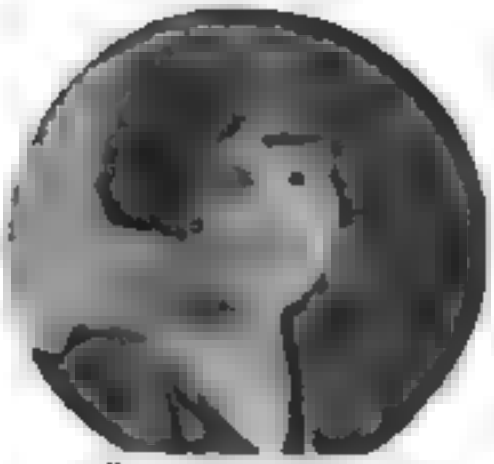
Gladys Amos, Mrs. Amos & Lorine Amos with their dog pulling the toboggan.

Track and Field Day at Meadow Bank 1953. Wayne Scrannstad, Philip [illegible], [illegible] Mangan, Ruth Leopart, [illegible] Magnan, Faye Leopart.



Miss. Jean Ingram

Miss. Mary Cherry



Miss. Elsie Price

Miss. Gladys Barnett

Back row; teacher Mr. Percy Heffren, Art Lamson, Johnnie Evans, second row; unknown Mabel Tweidt, Magna Carson, Mary Evans, Owen Evans, Alf Tweidt, unknown third row; Ruth Harrison, Sylvia Harrison, Dorothy Evans, Mabel Garrison, first row; Sammy Evans, Roy Botham, Leslie Garrison, Leonard Harrison, front row, Edith and John Agnew. Clifford Botham standing by window.

Mr. Charlie Spencer

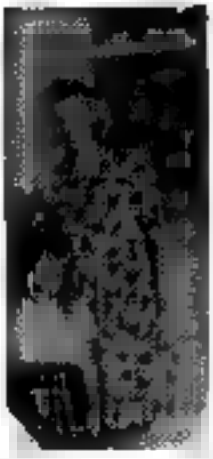
Miss. Vinnie Bryant

Miss. Ethel Dalehang

Miss. Mabel Lindstrom

Miss. Ann Nickelson

Miss. Mary Kinzel



Miss. Florence Lovdal

Mr. Wilfred Harcourt

Miss. Pearl Wasylink

Miss. Marjorie Nygaard

Mr. Frank McGreevers

Mrs. Mary Gutek

Mr. Lloyd Nelson

# Rotnum #4347

Rotnum school opened its doors for the first time in the fall of 1922 with Miss Sommerfeld,B.A. of Saskatoon serving as teacher for two months. In later years she married a lumber yard operator from Kelvington.

In that same year, Jean Ingram of Quill Lake took over from Miss Sommerfeld and completed the term. Later she became the wife of Mr. Riley, whom she met when he was principal of Wadena school.

They had one son and by then were both teaching near Quill Lake. One Friday evening Mr. Riley went to pick up his wife and small son after the days work and at a railroad crossing near Quill Lake, their car was struck by an oncoming train, taking the lives of the entire family.

Jean had a brother Bryce who still resides in Quill Lake.

Bob Cameron of Wadena and a brother of Elisabeth Cameron, who taught at Duck Creek, came to open the school in the spring of 1923. He had not had any teachers training but taught under a permit granted him by Inspector Massey.

In the summer of 1923 after Mr. Cameron left Rotnum Miss Charry of Davis, Saskatchewan came to complete the term.

Miss Elsie Brice came to teach at Rotnum in March of 1924 at the age of 17 years. Her parents farmed just on the southern outskirts of Wadena. She boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hanson who lived on the SE ¼ 13-36-13 about ¼ of a mile from the school. Her pupils ranged in age from 5 to 17 years and grades were from 1 to VIII.

Her sister, Betty remembers vividly the cold, cold winter and that she came out to help Elsie prepare for her first Christmas concert at Rotnum. This was to be a day of practising, but Mr. Hanson found after driving them both to the school by team and sleigh that the school house was so cold, it was impossible to have the children change into their costumes for practise, so he ended up taking all the school children and the teacher back to his house for their practise.

Betty also remembers her father then coming to take them both back to Wadena for the Christmas holidays, a drive of some 14 or 15 miles by team, but luxury of luxuries, he was driving the team on a closed in sled which in later years became the fashionable mode of winter travel.

Sad to say, Elsie passed away November 1st, 1930, following surgery.

In February of 1925 Percy Heffern took over as teacher, coming from Kelvington where his parents were in business. Percy also taught at Duck Creek school.

In 1926 Henry Lowen from Rhein came to teach at Rotnum. He and Percy Heffern were great buddies and part of the time they lived together in Duck Creek teacherage each going to his respective school daily, the remainder of the time each boarded at the Jay Garrison home. It is presumed they did not always walk to their school, as they owned a bicycle each.

Gladys Burnett taught at Rotnum School from the 1927-28 term, having taught at Alsask the previous year. Her home had been at Quill Lake where she received her education.

After leaving Normal School she had been the first teacher at Kingscourt school, north of Quill Lake, returning there to teach a second term later in her career.

She boarded at the Garrison home and recalls well the horse, "Roany" the family used to drive hitched to a buggy, their only means of transportation. She and Mrs. Garrison, she recalls, took off with old Roany and the buggy on a shopping trip, bound for Hendon, one Saturday in late fall. Their mission was to purchase goodies for the coming Halloween party at the school.

Gladys was a slender, dark, attractive looking lady and I (Mabel Garrison) remember thinking I'd love to look as fetching as she did when she donned a beautiful long sleeved red silk blouse, with rows of gathering at the cuffs & neck. Memories are beautiful!

So it is no surprise that eventually this lovely lady changed her name to Gladys Moore.

In 1938 she went to Meadow Lake to teach for six months in the Matches district. Forty two years later she is still there living in a Senior Citizens home and enjoying her retirement.

In February 1928, a young chap from Prince Albert by the name of Charlie Spencer, came to take over the teaching duties at Rotnum.

Pleasant Thoughts of Rotnum - Chas. Spencer, Surrey, B.C.

In early February 1928, I received a phone call from Jesse Mahlum that my application for the position of teacher in Rotnum school had been accepted. Since my home was in Prince Albert he also told me that I should come to Hendon on an afternoon train from Tisdale, I would be met at the station and taken to my boarding place. On Saturday afternoon we rattled into Hendon and the elements gave me a rough welcome. There was a blizzard raging full blast and snow, inspite of shovelling was quite

deep when I stepped off the train, known for miles as the [illegible] dog. I felt like getting back on! I didn't have a chance. A fat man sat up and said "Are you the teacher for Harrison?" I said "Yes." "Well," he said, "I've come to take you to your boarding place." The same thick accent began a friendship that continued, unbroken for the rest of his life. The man, Ken, and other than, our Harrison.

We had a sandwich and coffee and then came into the kitchen. Both of us were rather dressed and we never ceased talking. We pointed places nearby and told me who lived there and whether or not they had children in school. You know it was really [illegible] a young teacher. Late in the afternoon we arrived at Harrison's where I unpacked until the school closed to prep, except for a quick at home I became a resident of Harrison.

When I arrived at school Monday morning there was a meeting [illegible] there and a number of students present. They were very polite [illegible] and respectful. Another were welcome. A few days after the usual workers came to the school to sign the agreement [illegible] This I [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] and a very much in the word and come up to the school. [illegible] the [illegible] room [illegible] was not very much, so I went and [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible] to the [illegible] [illegible] and we had to sit in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

We had a district picnic in July. There was always a good turn out. Not all the men were able to attend but every family was well represented. I have a picture taken at the 1928 picnic but I missed the 1929 picnic as I had been called into a cadet camp at Ft. Qu'Appelle and left the day of the picnic.

Christmas concerts - why spend a lot of time on the topic? Everyone, students parents and teachers enjoyed every minute of it, including the sometimes tiring practices but when it was all over you began to think of the next one.

During my stay at Rotnum I made many lasting friendships. You couldn't avoid it unless you were inclined to be a hermit. A student would come in and say, "You are to come home with us after school and supper with us." Those are the kind of things that makes one look back with pleasure to the time you spent in the district.

When I first came to Rotnum in 1928 I knew I had to return to Normal School for further training. The board knew it also and one day in June I was asked to meet the board. What for? I wondered. They asked me to return to the district as soon as my course was completed. What a relief! I could forget writing applications and return to a district, I really liked. I remained there until July 1930 when I left for a larger school.

It has been a pleasure for me to look back fondly to Rotnum. Truly I had an experience quite different from that experienced elsewhere but then the same is true of other situations.

HUMOUR

One morning two new students arrived -- grade one. I registered the girl, then the boy and was surprised both birthdays March 11, 192., "Your birthdays are the same" I said. "Oh yes," said the wee lady "We're twins, Mr. Spencer."

There was a boy who came to school who didn't know any swear words. There was another who knew them all and he found that the first boy was an apt and willing student, who let out several resounding with his mother within earshot. She was quick to reprimand him and said, "If I hear anything like that again I'll tell Dad. He tried to beg off and said, "Don't! If you tell Dad I will catch Hell."

At the annual picnic in the married ladies' race I recall this one lady well out in front. Suddenly she came to a dead stop and walked off the track. Long after I found out why. She told a friend's wife she stopped because of her fear of tripping over her stocking. She had broken a garter!

Baseballs didn't last long. So some inventive soul said lets wrap it with friction tape. That's tough. We did and the boys got ready for grounders and I did the batting. That thing was heavy. It took an ugly hop after I had slammed it at my admiring student. It caught him in the knee and he went down as

though he were pole--axed. What grunting and groaning! After a few minutes he dragged himself to his feet and said, not very audible, but good enough, "Let me get hold of that black ---".

In Sept. of 1928 Charlie Spencer went to finish his course at normal school, so Enid Campbell of Wimer came to fill in until the end of December of that year. She too boarded with the Harrison family and remembers well their well built home of logs -- also their daughter, Sylvia, who was still attending school.

Miss Jneeta Bryant 1930-31

Miss Jneeta Bryant came to the Rotnum district to teach in 1930-31. It was her first school and she had been born and raised in Goose Bay and took her Normal School there. At that time there was very direct connections via C.N.R. from Kelvington to Goose Bay and so her travelling was done by train. She boarded with the Garrison family and drove with the children to school with a horse and buggy and winters - horse and cutter.

Miss Bryant was of good moral fibre and I can recall her getting a few of the older pupils enthusiastically involved in trying out for Summer Camp - all we needed to do was memorize the entire Gospel of John and she spent many hours after school listening to us recite from memory. The only little fly in the ointment was, when camp time came, our parents were hard pressed to find the necessary funds for our transportation to and from camp, so we never did get there.

I recall one Sunday evening, when Miss Bryant was about to demonstrate her batting ability in our kitchen and she connected with a bottle of ink, spattering it all over her new dress. Mother rushed to the rescue by offering to soak the dress in a fresh jar of buttermilk from her recent churning of butter. It's sure it must have had the desired effect for I seem to remember her being able to wear that yellow dress once more.

Memories of Rotnum School Aug. 1931 - June 1932

Ethel Valette came in the fall of 1931 to teach in the little country school near the village of Hendon. When my train arrived at the station there was no one there to meet me, so a kind elevator agent Mr. Johnson, I think who happened to come along, took pity on me and gave me a lift to the home of Mr. Garrison, the chairman of the school board. Other members of the board were Mrs. A. Scrimstad and Jesse Mahlum, the secretary-treasure.

My recollections of the school and pupils are good ones. Some of the names that come to my mind are; Roy Rotnum who was probably the oldest boy at school at the time; the three Twedit boys --Melvin,

[illegible] and Ida May [illegible] Peterson girls [illegible] and Frank [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

She boarded at the Jay Garrison home, whose then wee daughter Sybil for many years referred to her as"the lady". It was while teaching at Rotnum that she met the cousin of one of her pupils, Arne Flostrand. She and Arne were married some time later and in the 1940's moved to B.C. They have a family of three children and are now retired, living in New Westminster.

## DON LEITCH

The 1933-34 term brought another young chap from Clair to teach at Rotnum. His name was Don Leitch and he stayed on until June of 1938. It will be noted that he returned again in later years to teach Rotnum.

Don Leitch was born and raised in the Clair district, son of Dan and Lizzie Leitch(Scambler).

He attended teachers College in Saskatoon and in 1935 came to the Rotnum district to take over his first teaching duties. In those years a teacher had an enrollment in a one room school, comprising Grades 1 to 10. We were in the midst of what was termed the "depression years" and his salary was something like $300.00 per year with room and board at about $15.00 per month.

For a time Don boarded at the Carl Hanson home, then to the Joseph Hanson's and later in his story he boarded with the Paul Mack family.

The 1939-40 term he taught the Duck Creek School and in 1940-41 taught Robbinsdale School, west of Rose Valley.

The 1941-42 term he taught at Rosetown and it was at the end of this term, he enlisted in the Air Force, working with radar control and was eventually sent overseas. When the war ended in 1945, he returned home in the fall of that year. In the spring of 1946, he began thinking of the quiet life that farming offered and so after looking at possibilities, he purchased the SE¼ 41-14 which had been the Prediger farm.

As there was a shortage of teachers, it was not long before Don was again pressed into service, teaching at Victoria Park School at Hendon.

In 1952-53 he taught the Wooler School and it was during this time he became better acquainted with a young lady who had grown up in the Rotnum Area, Frances Torgerson.

On May 9th, 1953, Don and Frances were married in Lanigan, then in the fall of that year Don went to Moosehorn school, north-west of Hendon to take on the teaching duties.

The following fall 1954 a daughter was born to them in the Wadena hospital and father made the headlines of the local paper, as he ended up in hospital as well!

Two more children came to bless their home, all the while Don was teaching and getting his farm in shape.

In 1956 and because of a drastic shortage of teachers, Don returned to teach at Rotnum and remained there until 1962. At the beginning of his term a teacherage had been built in the school yard, so Don and family moved in for a time, instead of commuting from the farm.

In his youth Don had learned to play the violin and at many parties, he would entertain, one of the favorites being "Over the Waves."

When Frances was a child, she was always in demand for her singing ability, and so it was son Bruce inherited this, and at four years of age, with no trace of nervousness sang "The Big Swede from North Dakota" at one of his Dads Christmas concerts at Rotnum.

When the 1962 term ended, Don had expected to be able to give full time to his farming, but once again was called on to teach — this time at Victoria Park.

Then in 1966, with health problems beginning to plague him, Don rented his land and with the family moved to LeRoy. He taught there until 1969, when he was forced to take life at an even slower pace.

Their three children a credit to the family. Linda a graduate nurse is presently in Cumberland house, Bruce in the plumbing trade works in Calgary and Sandra a photo journalist is in Vancouver.

Don and Frances make their home in LeRoy, but spend as much of their free time as they can at their cabin at Marean Lake.

## Ann Nicholson 1938-39

The term 1938-39 brought Ann Nicholson of Wadena to teach at Rotnum. Her father operated a lumber yard in Wadena and this was Ann's first school. As she relates - "My Dad took me home for the weekends as long as the roads stayed open. I boarded with the Paul Mack's until their home burned down, and then I moved to the Joseph Hanson's.

I remember the different Mack families, the Hanson's, Tweidts', Allen's and Harrisons. The three Wahlum girls rode ponies to school. I remember quite a few others but can't fit names to them. Over forty years have passed since I was there and I have taught hundreds of kids in three provinces. The last thirty three years I have taught in Vancouver as a teacher of blind children. I am still doing this, but now we are in the public school system instead of in a school just for the blind.

Although I love Vancouver, I often think of my first country school and first country living and I am glad I had the opportunity to experience rural life.

## Mrs. Lillie Howitt 1939-40

Mrs. Lillie Howitt came to teach at Rotnum from August 1939 to June 1940. She boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Davis and one of her pastimes was playing the accordian. She now lives in Wynyard, Sask.

## Mary Clare Kinsel 1940-1942

I was Mary Clare Kinsel when I came to teach at Rotnum School for two years from Sept. 1940 to June 1942, coming from Southern.

I had just turned 18 a few days after I arrived and I was a scarred kid 100 miles from home. I boarded with the Davis family and he told me what an awful time the former teacher had, so this made me scarred than ever. Away I tackled the gang of about 40 darlings - grades 1 to 10 and I now have to admit it was one of the happiest experiences I ever had. The people in the district were great and in those days the school was the centre of the community. I had lots of work but lots of co-operation and enthusiasm. I often wonder now what I taught those poor kids - anyway I did my best which is all that can be expected of one - even if my salary was only $70.00 per month.

I recall putting on a play at Meadow Bank hall called "Too Much Mother-in-Law". Mrs. Wright was our director and some of those taking part that I remember were Leonard and Sylvia Harrison, Joyce Haynes, Ken Leitch, Ken and Wilma Donald and Harry Linden. Gerald Leitch was the real live baby in the play and I believe we had a dog called Socrates. This took place in the winter of 1942 in Feb. We had fun and took the play to Meadow and Nut Mountain.

I married Doug MacPherson from Glenside, Sask. in Aug. of 1944. We now live in Saskatoon

## Mrs. Marjorie Allen

The opening of the fall term in 1942 found Rotnum school without a teacher so Mrs. Marjorie Allen, a teacher and wife of a local farmer came to teach for the month of Sept.

Mrs. Allen taught school in many areas. She was a conscientious person. Many times you would see her ride her horse or drive a toboggan down the road either to Rotnum or Duck Creek school. No matter how cold the weather.

Living in the Rotnum area, she also was school secretary for a good number of years. When there was any help needed in any way, she was always there with a friendly smile and encouragement.

She passed away on March 30, 1976 after spending the winter in Prince George.

## Miss Lillian McCowan

Following Mrs. Allen, Miss Lillian McCowan of Quill Lake came to teach, staying on until June of 1944. Her sister was teaching at Brand at the same time so their family would come for the two girls on weekends. Lillian boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Davis.

Later she married Ben Ferrie of Inverway and they raised three sons. They continue to farm at Inverway, although Ben is active in politics and Lillian teaches the kindergarten class in Inverway.

## Florence Carlson 1944 to 1946
[Lovdahl]

In the fall of 1944, I began teaching at Nutana. There were about 10 students in grades one to ten. Those who were in grades nine and ten used correspondence so my help was mostly in the correction of their assignments.

The janitor work was done by the Shaws who lived near the school. Water was hauled for the water cooler. A large, low stove in the centre of the room provided adequate heat.

Those children had so much initiative! I never heard anyone ask, "What should we do?" Several children rode horseback to school. You may recall that there were several rows of cultivated trees around the yard with a grassed space between them and the fence. One day I came to the door to ring the bell just in time to witness the horses and riders crossing the finish line in a "Kentucky derby race." There were also broad jump pits and could hardly wait to get out on the baseball diamond when recess came. After a small skating area was made. One of casualty was when Lizzie Mark broke her arm. We did not realize this until her parents took her to their doctor.

I have often wondered how we managed to cover the year's work as we began practising for the Christmas concert early in November. There was always a packed school for this program. We were fortunate in having musical talent in our school as among others we had Doreen Mark, Evangeline Mahlum, and five Austrings.

Each spring, a school Field Meet was held at Meadowbank. We could not have attended except for the kind use of Mr. Carl Peters who gave of his time and the use of his truck to haul all the students and myself to the meet. Mr. Peters would only accept our thanks and gratitude.

For special days like Hallowe'en, Valentine's and Easter, an evening party was held. The whole community attended. It consisted of vocal entertainment, games and contests. There was lunch which the ladies automatically brought. Our "coffee-maker" was Mrs. Austring who cooked it in a large canner. Advertising for these events was by "word of mouth" as the only local phone was at Axel Carlsons.

One special event was when a public debate was held. The adults taking part were Mabel Scramstad, Norman Austring, Benny Tweidt and Mary Laepart. Mac Scramstad was the adjudicator, the judges were Don Leitch, Mr. Harrison, and Clifford Lee.

While in that district I was fortunate to board with a dear couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Davis. We played many games of crokinole and checkers when the evenings were cold or rainy. Their home was always open to welcome friends and neighbors.

Yes, those two years in the Rotnum district left me with happy memories of the warm hospitality and friendships which I found there. They greatly enriched my life.

I was also fortunate in having the so important support and backing from the parents as I endeavoured to teach and discipline their children. So I toast you, "Rotnum School Parents of 1944--1946 -- You were simply great!"

After Rotnum I taught at Morse for two years and in Rose Valley for twenty-four years. I retired in 1977

Elmer and I have three children. Carol and her husband, Steve Lane, reside in Regina. Jim lives in Saskatoon and so do Dale and his wife Shammi.

Time still flies for me as I now have time to do the numerous hobbies I enjoy and also time for visits with friends and relatives.

## Miss Pearl Wasyluk 1946-47

Miss Pearl Wasyluk followed Florence Carlson for the term 1946-47. She boarded at the Davis'. She is now married to John Koroluk and they live at Sturgis, Sask. Their son is a teacher at Margo.

## Marjorie Nyguard 1947-48

Marjorie Nyguard taught Rotnum School for the 1947-48 term and boarded with the Davis family. She had taken Bible school training at Two Rivers Bible school, then boated at Carlea, Sask. and she became a missionary candidate. She married Leland Snider and now lives at Bezanson, Alberta.

## W. J. Harcourt 1948 - 1952

W. J. Harcourt came to Rotnum School from LaRoy, teaching there from Sept 1948 to June 1952.

I arrived in the Rotnum School in the fall of 1948 and remained there four years. This was a long stay in a rural school for a teacher at that time. If I remember correctly, the School Board

[illegible] were the Secretary, [illegible] Secretary Leonard Leopert and A. A. Stirling. I borrowed [illegible] from her to get me through the first month.

My first year I boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Davis, a very quiet couple who looked after me first rate. [illegible] a very [illegible] where a few years passed without [illegible] of long winter [illegible]. Most of the time in the four years I lived at [illegible] Mary Latrelle's where I was like a member of the family. In winter I spent with the Pa[illegible]'s where Mrs. Davis [illegible] set to [illegible] other winter was spent with [illegible] who were [illegible] there that the warm bathroom and [illegible] yard. There was no doubt a good reason for [illegible] like this, but no one told me what it was.

[illegible] of course attended while I was there. Most of them [illegible] I [illegible] and a few who took correspondence [illegible]. The first year I had six grade [illegible]. There were, if I remember [illegible] Mary Cooper [illegible] Ora Latrelle, [illegible] and [illegible]. Mrs. Cooper was [illegible] Latrelle, [illegible] and [illegible]. I recall [illegible] Latrelle, [illegible] to [illegible]. At the [illegible] a rule, a [illegible] teacher rea[illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] a rule. [illegible] of [illegible] teachers and grade [illegible] more [illegible] four or [illegible] systems.

At Petrolia [illegible] are one, while I was [illegible] never over. When I was there the board tried to [illegible] a [illegible] to improve their [illegible]. Apparently [illegible] and [illegible] rooms were [illegible] [illegible] or [illegible] years, it appears, but we sure spent a lot of time practicing.

Christmas concerts were a big [illegible] of the winter season for [illegible] let me [illegible] practices. I was a [illegible] I [illegible] were [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] was a [illegible] that had never been [illegible] in our larger [illegible]. All grades were in the [illegible] and parts were there, [illegible] the whole [illegible] stood up.

I [illegible] I had no [illegible] plots, a few [illegible] that is I remember from [illegible] were at [illegible] the big [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

squaw wrestler in the Nendon bar, the hospitality shown me when the many families had me over for supper and an evening of talk or cards.

I could ramble on and on but suffice it to say that I have many fond memories of the people and students of Rotnum School. In my more than 30 years of teaching I still maintain it is the most civilised of all the communities I have worked in.

Marion Allen 1952

When the fall term began in 1952 Marion Allen, a local girl took over as a study supervisor until she left for Winnipeg. After Marion left, Jeanette Guest, daughter of Mrs. Ina Guest, came to teach at the school for a month, putting the pupils on correspondence course so that when she left and the school had to be closed for the month of December.

In January of 1953 Frank McGregors, after much deliberation consented to teach at Rotnum, boarding at the Mahlum home. Frank had served in the Air Force during the war and he owned a farm in the Lone Tree District north of Kuroki.

When the fall term commenced in 1953, Mrs. Mary Gutek, a teacher with plenty of experience and the wife of a local farmer, kindly consented to return to teaching again. She had children of her own going to Rotnum, so understood our dilemma. Mary stayed on to teach there until June of 1956.

ODE TO ROTNUM

A row of stately poplars, the corner of Otto's farm
Remind us of your past, your glory and charm.
With many a laughter, often sadness and tears
Mine was this pleasure for but three short years.
The tasks were many, the frustration no less
We aimed at perfection, we aimed at success.
The cold wintery rides, Carl's run-away team,
In Penny's mash the treehouse an architect's dream.
The spring brought la rels to Allan, Ronnie and Ray,
Meadow Bank field meet, their speed won the day.
The pie sale, the raffle, Christmas concert to prepare
Albert, Gerald and Philip and "The Little Red Hare."
The girl's sang, danced, recited with talent and poise
Parents applauded, Santa rewarded, my what a noise.
Back to the text books each new year dictated
The Juniors filled the seats the Seniors vacated.
Twenty eight characters the three Rs strove to master
Results were varied, fame, fortune, fun and disaster.
Classmates we were, friends we still are,
Some we see daily, others travelled afar.
Our memories of you, sad, happy, we share
Proudly we say, "Rotnum we were there".

Mary V. Gutek '53-56'

September of [illegible] found us once again needing a teacher so [illegible] returned to take over the school.

In September of 1963 a local boy had graduated from Teacher's College - so it was natural to hire him to teach at home.

## Lloyd Nelson 1962 - 63

In [illegible] I taught at Iverson. It was my first year as a teacher and the last year the school was open. Most children from the primary section of the district had entered the school in September of 1962. The change in attendance during that last year of school remains special to me. I was a beginner teacher and had completed the first year "on the job" training. I was to find it [illegible] were learned in preparation for [illegible] and [illegible] was there always to meet [illegible] expenses. Some of the experience was rewarding in that [illegible] and it strengthened my decision to make education my profession.

What was Iverson like and who were the students in 1962-63? The school was a one-room structure [illegible] and a porch in addition to the main classroom. The teacher had her desk and chair near the back of the classroom. The heat was supplied by [illegible] There were two [illegible] the large room. The [illegible] was to the [illegible] and [illegible] were [illegible] the stove. [illegible] When a storm threatened to block the roads the students were [illegible] There were several severe [illegible] and were it not for [illegible] residing, I would have had much difficulty getting to school on time.

In the spring the ditches near the school filled with water and [illegible] the water would inspect the [illegible] In the morning [illegible] would [illegible] on a chair placed near the stove.

In addition to the main school room, there were several other [illegible] The teacher's [illegible] or resource [illegible] and [illegible] Mother's [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

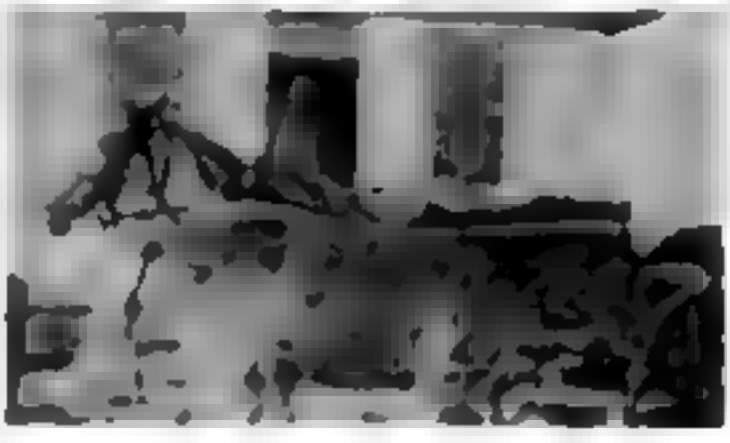
viewed Bradley Screamtad or Calvin Tweidt that smoking might affect a person's health or even stunt their growth.

One of the easiest things for a new teacher at Botnum in 1963-64 was to learn the surnames of the thirteen students who enrolled. The reason for this was that ten of them were Tweidts, two were Screamtads and one was a Leitch. The enclosed photograph was taken at the end of the school year. There was only one student in each of grades 1, 3, and 8, two students each of grades 2, 4 and 6, and three students in grade 5. As a teacher is faced with numerous problems such as how to promote class discussions, how to organize a physical education program, how to organize a science fair, how to plan a Christmas concert, etc.

[illegible] with reference to a couple of the aforementioned [illegible] in order. My students did not [illegible] position but they did have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports activities [illegible] and roller skating. Other activities [illegible] correlated with [illegible] rate of participation [illegible]. And this is also a good example [illegible] and the performance of the second [illegible] Tweidt [illegible] Tweidt [illegible] and the support of their parents [illegible], were able to experience and, I trust, enjoy [illegible] that proved an education in this part of rural America over a decade ago.

Botnum School was closed [illegible]. It's closure marked the end of a chapter in the education [illegible] children, but it also signified the beginning of new opportunities and experiences for the students who had been in the [illegible] their final year. Perhaps this is what is meant by "progress", though [illegible] of us who taught and studied at Botnum realize that "progress" is not just a pure gain. For while something is undoubtedly gained something is also lost.

Personally, the year I spent at Botnum helped me to appreciate more fully an important part of our cultural heritage - - - I'll miss ROOM RURAL SCHOOL.



"POINT". Many Botnum teachers' transportation to school.

# First School Meeting

Public notice is hereby given that the first school meeting for the organization of the undermentioned into a new school district and for the election of Trust will be held on Saturday the 12th day of June at the house of F J Kidd.

The meeting will be called to order at 2 O'clock in the afternoon (Standard Time) The poll for voting for and against the district shall remain open only one hour Ten minutes will be allowed for nominating trustees The poll for trustees shall remain open thirty minutes The boundaries of the district proposed to be voted upon includes the following lands.

All of Sections 5 6 7 8 14 18 19 20 in Township 3 Range 6 12 West of 2nd M. and all of Sections 1 11 12 13 14 23 24 in Township 36 Range 6 13 2nd M

Date of posting this notice The first day of June 1920

F J Kidd
E E Hanson
Board of
School Commiss

# THE FORMATION OF ROTNUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

The proposal for this new district was on the 10th of June 1920 and the approval of boundaries was on July 5th 1920. The approvals were also received from RM's 336 & 337 at this time, Dick Messenger being on council.

According to the proposed district map of June 1920, the school site was to be on the SE ¼ of Sec. 13, Twp 36, Rge 13, W 2nd. Later the location of the school was changed to Sec. 18, Twp 36, Rge 12 as this parcel of land was given for the school site by the late Oscar Rotnum.

At the time of proposing this new school district, there were 16 children residing within this area.

The number of acres of assessable land was 8800 with a total value of $88,859.00.

Authorization was received on Oct. 1, 1920 for erecting the school. The board of trustees of the proposed school district were to borrow the sum of $4400.00(originally $4500.) for the purpose of erecting and equipping school, fencing and purchasing site, also building a barn. Debentures were to be repayable in fifteen consec tive annual instalments of principal and interest, at a rate not exceeding 8% per annum.

This proposal did not meet with the approval of the local ratepayers, so a reproposal was made on Feb. 2 of 1921 for a cost of $4000.00. It would seem that in the intervening time, a site for the school had been donated, so they were able to lower the amount needed.

Arras, Waddell, Rotnum and Garfield were the proposed names for the school district. Some of the ratepayers who had served in World War I had been wounded at Arras, France and felt this to be a fitting name.

Waddell was a local homesteader who played an active part in organizing the hall, church and school.

Rotnum was chosen in honor of the man who donated the school site.

The trustees for the year 1922 were as follows:

Jesse Mahlum - Chairman
H. Jay Garrison
Wm. Harrison
Sam Evans - Secretary Treasurer
G. F. Gillespie was the auditor

Mr. and Mrs Fred Lowndes

The first time I saw [illegible] was i[illegible], after [illegible] years of drought at Parade a [illegible] and [illegible] of [illegible] had seen [illegible] all [illegible] thistles all [illegible] and [illegible] was hard to [illegible] decision to [illegible] was [illegible] concluded.

[illegible] was [illegible] land pr[illegible] was [illegible] west, [illegible] idea [illegible] benefit.

It proved satisfactory [illegible] barns, also [illegible] on [illegible] first [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] was added [illegible] other owners [illegible] barns.

I see from [illegible] was a drive through [illegible] was filled, [illegible] loads came in [illegible] opposite side of the barn and the other half was filled.

The complete cost of this ba[illegible] taken from my itemized records, $906.10. This included labor cost, cement and [illegible] on the lightning rods. All local lumber, except shingles and loft doors.

Gladys and Fred Lowndes were b[illegible] in England. Gladys came to Canada [illegible] and [illegible] father was [illegible] rema[illegible]

Fred came to [illegible] farm [illegible] worked [illegible] after two years [illegible] was sold [illegible] this [illegible] we [illegible] the Willard [illegible] farm.

The move was precipitated by the need for a bigger house, with power available. The E½ -23 was sold at this time.

Glen went to school at Duck Creek until it closed and after obtaining a Degree in Agriculture married Orlyn Hartsell. And joined me as a partner in the farming enterprise, which included the Dairy business. After we retired, Glen bought back the E½ of 23.

Pat also went to school at Duck Creek and later went to Normal School. She married Ivan Godbe. Taught school for about two years and then Ivan took over his father's farm in the Rose Bud area where they farmed and have a Dairy Herd.

Keith was born on the old farm and eventually obtained a degree in Social Science, after graduation, she worked for the Dept. of Social Services in Regina, until she married Allan Perron. They now live on the old Donald farm while Allan is in the livestock transportation business.

Jack, our youngest, was born on the second farm site, and after four years at university, married Hazel Holtman of Strathcona. They made their home in Regina for a time while working for the Sask. Farmers Union. Jack is now farming in the Kelvington municipality.

We have now lived in Wolseley and have 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren, and we still feel a part of Meadow Bank.

Although the district is now enjoying good crops and prosperity, we never regretted the move. We felt that the district had given us a good start in life, and also the dances and parties we all, with the babies tucked in bed together, and the steam in the barn filled with horses, all were dear memories.

Retired Days.

Our two eldest children, Jean and Patsy attended school at Meadow Bank, until it closed in 1940. The first teacher that we remember was Mr. Graham, and his wife lived in the teacherage on the school grounds. We all attended the "Closing Day Picnic". These were held on the school grounds.

Miss Aylesworth was Jean's first teacher, then Miss Aylewood, (now Mrs. Norman Arsenault) Miss Forest, Miss Churchill, Mr McDonald and Mrs. Peter Allan were others as well.

Church services were held at Meadow Bank until 1966. The minister was Rev. Andrew when we arrived, Mr Parkema conducted the last service.

Our Meadow Bank "Ladies Aid" started up about 1930. We had a large number of members for many years, but only a few members now. We put on "Box" suppers, bazars, weiner roast, social and amateur nights. The money we raised went to the United Church, the Wadena Hospital and the Aid committee, besides charities.

The meeting was well organized when we came, and continued

into the middle 60's. The ring was set up by farmers in the area and they would all have one beef animal to raise for butchering at the beef ring head quarters at the Althouse farm. From there the meat that had been processed would be delivered to the membership. This way you always had fresh meat in the years that we didn't have deepfreezes.

During the wet years of '52 and 53, we and Drummonds operated a grain dryer, one of the first in the district.

Following is an exerpt from a household budget. April 1953

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Apr. 6..... | salt..... | .25 |
| " 20..... | 1 lb tea..... | .69 |
| " " .....2 | tins tomatoes | .25 |
| " " .....2 | tins salmon.. | .25 |
| ..... | oranges .. | 25 |
| ..... | Karo syrup .. | .49 |
| .....10 | bars soap .. | .50 |
| ..... | ring rye .. | .25 |
| ..... 6 | bars toilet soap | .25 |
| ..... 2 | boxes corn starch | 25 |
| ..... | [illegible] | |
| .. .. | Parawax | .25 |
| .. .. | [illegible] ap rca | .[illegible] |
| .... .. | 1 lb. apples | .2[illegible] |
| ..... | 1 sack flour | 2.[illegible] |
| ..... | [illegible] meat | .[illegible] |
| | Total for mont | .2[illegible] |

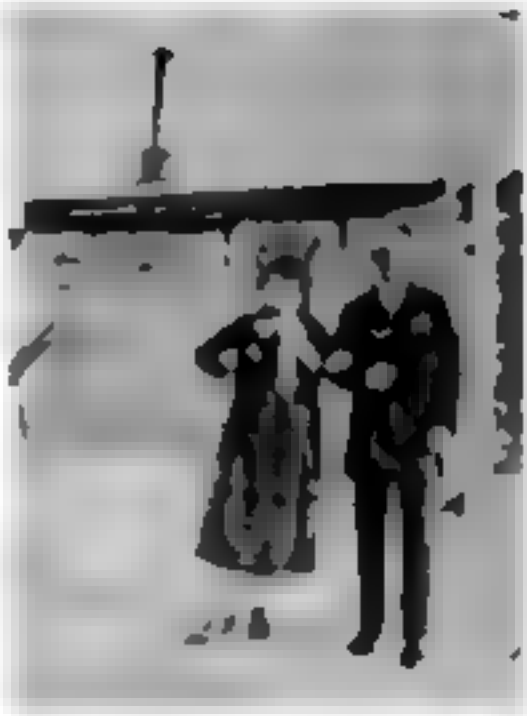
[illegible] and [illegible]

Submitted by Mrs. [illegible]

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Madam [illegible] to Melville where Paul's uncle had [illegible] this country. They left Germany to see a new life where [illegible] was greener. I'm sure that the [illegible] very hard to do. Paul, the oldest [illegible] (Elsie) the youngest of 10.

Dad had two brothers that had already [illegible] mother left all her family [illegible] not to shed tears, and the farewells did [illegible] other in about three or four years time, one [illegible] crossing, for her ocean voyage she was small, [illegible] with her all her life. It turned out to be [illegible] before she made the trip back to the old country and she enjoyed that very much.

When my folks left for Canada, they had their own ideas as to what they might really end up doing. Father had planned to have an [illegible] city and father wanted to be a train engineer, [illegible] looks like they compromized and became farmers. [illegible]



r [illegible] first Christmas in Canada

Before they came to this place they had been in the Duck Creek area. One of the biggest changes that came about then was, they decided to adopt a child. When mother went for her little one, Dad told her to bring one home that could be led by the hand; So when she returned from Saskatoon and was met at the Depot, One of the neighbors was with my Dad. Seeing my Mother decend the train steps, he called out "Look, Paul, This one is in a pink blanket". And there were tears of joy in his eyes as he looked upon his little daughter, Whom they called Noreen Paula.

It didn't take long, they decided to increase their family. And so their adopted son Gordon Wilhelm came to join this happy family.

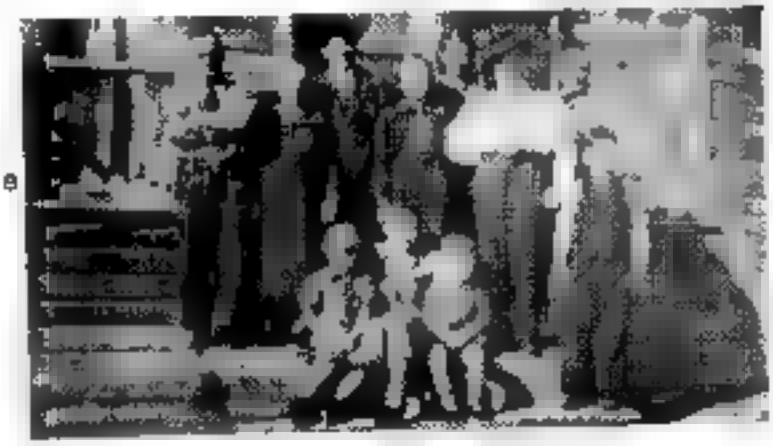
I can remember moving to the Rothnum area from the Duck Creek area. The house was a two storey one just like the one on the other farm. But now we had a large grove of spruce trees, and needless to say, my brother and I could climb these trees like squirrels before long. [illegible] to the wonder of our mother. The syrup from the trees [illegible] and to have to wash them on a [illegible] was hard work. But mother always had us ready to go visiting. Mother was an immaculate "lady". Thanks Mom.

We have many happy memories of all these years. But there was a sad one in the year of [illegible], when we lost our home by fire. We had a teacher board with us at the time, Miss Anne Michalenko. We all lost everything except what we were wearing, as we were over to the [illegible] to visit that day. But I think one of our greatest [illegible] we all learned from that happening was that every neighbor near and far, were our friends. We got every kind of help in every kind of way. I guess I was the proudest girl around. I received 12 dolls as gifts. Then we every little girl shared their doll family with me.

The barn door was one that you could open, either top or bottom half. As it was [illegible] time, when the new calves came along, we were very excited. I can still remember the morning, when I arose and looked out the door. There was my wandering eyes, a little colt put its head over the bottom half of the barn door, greeting me. To this day all the animals are easy to [illegible]. Even a gangly legged colt was cuddly, if you could catch them.

When I started school, I was not able to talk English very well. There for some of the words had a funny sound to them. I sure learned fast to speak properly, as the teasing taught me to. We had wonderful teachers. They gave us so much of themselves. I believe that school days are the happiest years of our lives.

The years now seem so long ago. Dad's parents came to Canada in 1928 and lived close to us. They were Valentine and Matilda Mack with Carl, Erma, Cristine, Elsie and Eric.



Mr. & Mrs. V.Mack, Gus, Crissy, Carl, Eric & Elsie, Mr. & Mrs.Willie Mack, Louise & Sifgried

I have the fondest memories of grandpa [Opa as we called sitting in his rocking chair and telling us stories in erma . The excitement we lived, through his stories.

And grandma,[Oma as we fondly called her] was a petite lady, just under five feet tall. She raised a large family and alwa had a big garden. I remember her flower garden was differe from any I've seen. Her geometric designs were lovely.

Uncle Gus lived at home after he came became ill. When grand father passed away, he moved to British Columbia with gra ma.

Mother and Dad lived on this farm from 193 to 19 , a time my husband and I bought it. My folks moved into Wade April of 1965, and dad passed away on Decem er 25th Mother lived in Wadena until her passing on December 3rd, 19 .

Gordon lives in Regina. His wife,Terry and his four children, Brian, Larry, Dennise and Carol. He works for T.P. as a draftsman.

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mack

Eric Mack came to Canada at the age of one year. His pare s farmed in the Rat Mountain area, then moved to the Bothwe area. Eric and his sister, Elsie attended Rothwe school.

After school Eric started farming. But in 1944 he and his folks moved to the Okanagan Valley in B. C. and had a fruit farm.

In 1948 they returned to their farm on S.W. 1 - 36 - 12. and lived there until he was married to Ruby Avery in 1950. The bought the former Tom oss farm and then moved to Birch iver, Manitoba in 1959 or 60.

Eric at present is Foreman of Frontier School Division maintenance crew.

Ruby has been very active with her home, working in the Birch River hospital until it closed. She is an avid gardener.

Eric and Ruby have a family of three, Linda, Kirk, and Joanne. They now have five grandchildren. Both Linda and Kirk attended Rotnam school.

They had three miles to go to school. We remember the times Eric had an army jeep and he would be able to go across fields when even horses found it hard to do so. Also, he had a team of horses that were just rearin' to go. It took a lot of power to hold him down. Kaiser was some kind of horse, and with Tarzan the dog, he was a police dog and sure was a one man's animal.

Eric would walk in all kinds of weather to the neighbors south of his farm just to borrow a few matches.

[Submitted by Linda Beadle (Mack)

I, Linda Mack, attended Rotnam School from grade 1 to grade 3 completely. I remember the teacher, Mr. Don Leitch and I had only one. My classmate was Kathy Tweidt. I went to school there in 1958, 59, 60.

Linda became a registered nurse, is married to Micheal Beadle and has two daughters. They live in Dugger, Saskatchewan where Micheal is a train engineer.

Mr. & Mrs. Willie Mack

Willie came from Gerner, in July of 1927, and worked out for some time. In 1932 he met and married Charlotte Hensey of the Rockford area. In 1934 they purchased the original Otter farm from Carl Peters. They raised a family of three children, one son and two daughters who all attended Rotnam School. Louise, Mrs. Don Cunningham of Saskatoon has two sons, David and Robin.

Siegfried and his wife, Verna live in Wadena where until recently they operated the S. & V. Dairy Bar. They have a family of two sons and one daughter, Wesley, Sheldon and Tracey.

Bernice, Mrs. Harold Gordon lives in Saskatoon and have one daughter, Sherri and a son, Timmie.

Lottie and Willie sold their farm in 1965 to Don Cutek and purchased a home in Wadena where they are now enjoying retirement.

Submitted by Vernice Ingram (Mack)

Vernice Mack born October 26, 1929, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Mack of Nut Mountain, Saskatchewan.

I was 5 years old when I went to live with my grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. V. Mack who lived at Meadow Bank. From there I went school with Uncle Eric and Aunt Elsie Mack. This ws the fall of 1934.

I attended Rotnam school. My teacher was Mr. Leach. I got my Grade one while attending Rotnam school in the summer of 1935.

I remember only two classmates by name, Cyril Harrison and June Austring.

One of my pleasant pastimes was to sing for my classmates at the wood pile at recess. One day, Mr. Reid, the teacher was outside, was listening and heard me. I got called to the front of the class where I had to sing. From those days I was "top dog" singer for the whole school. I still remember the song which was "Way up old Hudson from the Sea Grande".

I always relate to my year at Ottawa school as a very enjoyable one, and was glad to see there later. One time was to ride Keith Harrison's horse on the way home from school. Ha, ha, what fun!

I married a young man from Kelvington, Bruce Turner and live in Victoria, B.C.

Mr.& Mrs.Jesse Wahlum & Family.

Jesse and Ida was born at Sacred Heart in Oakville Manitoba. Together with a friend, Ivor Larson, came to Saskatchewan in 1905 to take up a homestead in the Lintlaw district of Humboldt. This is the same quarter section where the family home is located today. We built a log house and broke and put a team of oxen and a walking plow to work the land. He was 18 years of age at the time. In order to get some money to buy a few necessaries he cut many cords of wood and hauled it to Melfort to sell in Madena. It took most of the day to get there as the roads were poor. He slept in a building adjoining the livery barn where he fed, and bought a few groceries the next day before returning home. He only got $2.00 a cord so it took alot of work to make a few dollars.

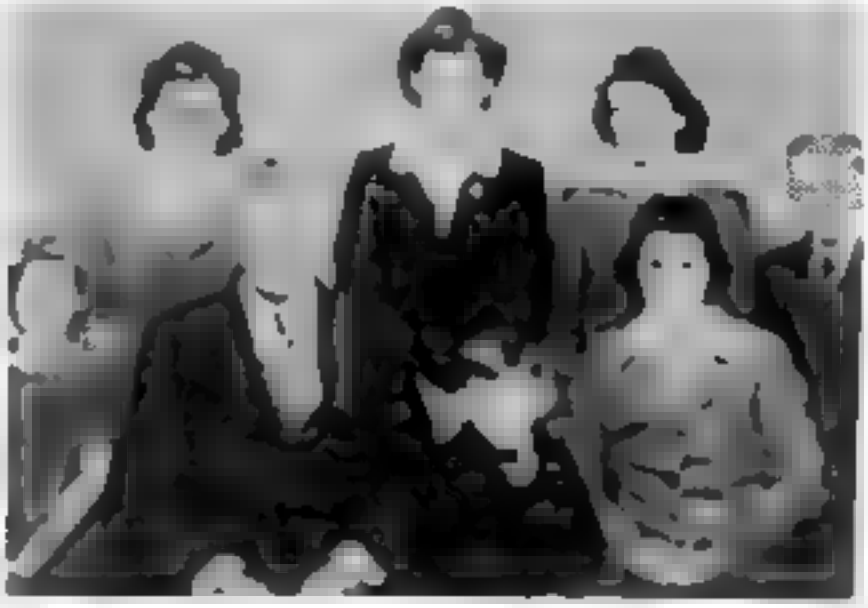
The C.N.R. provided the main access for settlers. The pioneer days of Canada were filled with many years of real hard work. Jesse worked his own homestead for some time and Ivor Larson's parents lived on the homestead close by. The Mrs. Larson was a sister to Mrs. Wahlum.

Jesse worked the district as a travelling salesman from Melfort. He covered a large territory travelling with a caboose in winter and a covered democrat in summer.

e enlisted in the first world war 1914-18 to serve overseas with the [illegible] war. He was wounded in action [illegible] over 2, [illegible] years [illegible] the Army. [illegible] served [illegible] with the [illegible] and [illegible] was [illegible] of a two-year term [illegible] and was defeated [illegible] overseas team of [illegible]. He was presented [illegible] and was discharged from the Army at Regina on February 8, 1919.

[illegible] was associated with the building of the [illegible] railroad [illegible] and [illegible] arrived [illegible] where [illegible] and [illegible] decided to make their home in Canada. [illegible] was a carpenter who built many houses, schools, and churches [illegible] as well as [illegible] and the Lutheran Church which is still standing today.

[illegible] played a very active part in the community. He served [illegible] years on the council of Lakeview Municipality. He was on the board [illegible] and [illegible] years and served as [illegible] years. He was well known in the district as a [illegible] until the time of his passing in August of 1952. Mr. and Mrs. Mahlum raised a family of [illegible] children, all of whom attended Rotnam school.



The [illegible] family

[illegible] married [illegible] and have a family of [illegible] and are now living in Wynyard where she is employed at the Wynyard Co-op as an office clerk.

[illegible] daughter of Hilda and [illegible]

[illegible] Anderson was the eldest daughter of Olive and Hilda [illegible] Anderson and while Hilda was still [illegible]

Anderson and while Alida was ill for a couple of months and needed a rest, Grandma Mahlum took care of Doris, and sent her off to Rotnam school with her own children for a time.

Lucella - married Ed Stasiuk of Fosston, now deceased. Has a family of four boys and one girl. She now resides in Edson, Alta.

Evangeline - married Elmo Anderson of Fosston, now deceased. Had a family of three boys and two girls. Is re-married to Wes Szekely and now lives in Richmond, B.C. Employed at Canadian Pacific Airlines. One experiences I remember most were Oscar and Raymond Armstrong always tying our Shetland Pony's tails together. At home time my pony, Mable ran away home and made a spill of five and my mother breaking the broom handle more than once on the old billy goat that wanted to go also to school. Keith Harrison sat behind me and tried to pull my pigtails into the ink well.

Dwight and Dwayne Anderson - [illegible]

Dwight and Dwayne Anderson were the [illegible] of Evangeline (Mahlum) Anderson of Fosston and [illegible] in attendance at both school while [illegible] ing in Regina.

Their mother also had a [illegible] so the family decided to [illegible] Mahlum home on the farm near Foam, [illegible] close to work and the [illegible]

Another sister, [illegible] well, but she was a little [illegible] class, the teacher felt she still needed [illegible] too eager for school. [illegible] her [illegible] year.

Leo - married [illegible] and [illegible] a girl. [illegible] farm [illegible] mother ill.

Margaret - married [illegible] a family of [illegible] Foam, [illegible] Living at [illegible] and operates [illegible]

Willie - married Marie [illegible] family of [illegible] also an [illegible]

## Mr. and Mrs. Peter McInnis

My parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pirie were born in Aberdeen, Scotland and came as children to Campbellford, Ontario with their parents.

My parents were married in 1880. In 1888, they moved west to Strathclair, Manitoba with their children. I was the third youngest in a family of eleven and was born in Strathclair in 1897. My parents farmed in that district for the remainder of their years. I attended a country school nearby and later worked in the Birtle Telephone Office until getting married.

Pete and I were married in 1919, in Shoal Lake, Manitoba and farmed in that district for seven years. Our oldest daughter, Joyce was born there.

In 192 , we moved to Kelvington accompanied by two of my brothers, Fred and Oliver Pirie. Fred remained in the district but Oliver returned home to Manitoba one year later.

We took a half section of land about 7 miles west of Kelvington. This property is now owned by the Allan Irving family. We had very little to live in with and our first summer we lived in a tent. A fall one of our cows walked through it one day and ruined it. We had later to build a small log house. Pete was busy harvesting at that time. It was left to me to do most of the work of building a one room log house before winter came. Later on we added to the house.

Our family consisted of four boys and two girls

Lorraine Joyce was born in 1922.
Donald Hector was born in 192 .
Verna Lillian was born in 1931.
Clifford Orris was born in 1933.
Edward Gerald was born in 193 .
James Edwin was born in 1935.

In January , 193 , I was hospitalized in Wadena for 5 months with infection of my ri hand due to an injury from a knitting needle. It was a difficult winter for me as Pete had 6 children ranging in ages fro to 14 to care for. Four were under school age and with no phone, electricity or running water, it was very difficult.

The neighbours were most helpful, especially Verna Donald who came weekly to help with laundry, cooking, etc. Also Mrs. Jim Wright took Eldon and cared for him during that period.

We left the farm in 1952 and moved to Flin Flon, Manitoba. Our farm was sold to Charlie Irving. Two years later we moved to Brandon where we resided for eight years and then in 1962 we moved to New Westminster where we enjoyed our retirement years. My husband passed away in 1973 and I lived in Kamloops for six years after. Presently I live in a Senior Citizens Lodge in Coquitlam, B.C. and enjoy travelling to visit my family and friends. I have 12 grand children and 5 great-grand-children.

My [illegible] parents also came from Scotland. In the 1880's they moved from Westbrook, Ont., to a homestead near Dauphin, Man. Jack was the youngest of five children. When he was [illegible] years of age his mother was killed by lightning so he was taken to live with his grandmother. His father died when he was seven years old and the family became split up and were placed with various relatives. It was [illegible] years before Pete was to see his sister again. He grew up mainly on his uncle's farm near Grant Valley and was expected to work hard from an early age. In those days a boy's age wasn't considered as important as working and so he received very little education as he had to work for his keep.

When he was 18 years old he got a job with the Grand Trunk Railway and later transferred as fireman on a road gang from Newmarket to [illegible]. They used horses and slush scrapers then, not like today with all the modern equipment. In those days a man only ever worked on Sundays.

When we got married he left the railway and returned to farming again. My dad had a [illegible] section of land in the Sandy Lake district and Pete and dad farmed there together for the next [illegible] years.

Pete served on the Duck Creek School Board for several years and was also a director of the [illegible] Hall. For a few years, he was influential in [illegible] the Hall and having it moved to it's location. Later on an addition was [illegible] to it.

Jack and was very fond of animals especially horses. He had a great interest in racing for many years and [illegible] when the veterinary had to [illegible] was a [illegible] to be found to a competitor. He was also a great [illegible] horses during the depression days and he was very good at decorating horses that were [illegible] for many years.

During the late winters when the country roads were snowed in trips to town did not take [illegible] or [illegible]. These trips were often long and cold, however. Jack would [illegible] his horses [illegible] and [illegible] and we were [illegible] the heat of the stove. [illegible] and rugs. [illegible] we were [illegible] and coal oil and [illegible], we would [illegible] alive and with [illegible] frozen noses and [illegible] after and have a [illegible]. It was [illegible] and an experience never to be forgotten.

Jack and [illegible] all his life and passed away at [illegible] on Jan. 2, 1[illegible] in [illegible]. [illegible] short illness.

Submitted by Joyce (McInnis) Harrison

[illegible]

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| [illegible] | Phyllis Parish | Steve Prybilski |
| [illegible] | art Parish | Shirley Wright |
| [illegible] | ercy Gowan | Frances Wright |
| [illegible] | Thelma Gowan | Rosella Avery |
| [illegible] | Stella Prybilski | Teddy Avery |
| [illegible] | Mary Prybilski | Amos Avery |
| [illegible] | Dorothy Weaver | |

[illegible] and another Smith family who had 2 boys and lived [illegible] also remember a Margret, who lived on the corner so[illegible] Meadow Bank Hall about 2 miles. It seems to me she was sta[illegible].

[illegible] first movie in Nordon. A silent movie called [illegible] h the [illegible] the Winter. It was run on a Car [illegible]y. I remember Eva [illegible] holding C.G.I.T. meetings at her house, and it was throug[illegible] T. meetings that I went to [illegible] ert Kelving[illegible] 2 and moved to Flin Flon. Charlie is the [illegible]rs Fred Jones. We have 3 children.

[illegible]inda and Art Johnson have 2 children, [illegible] who is 15 years old. Linda [illegible] Port Coquitlam and Art works at the Wellwood [illegible] in Coquitlam.

[illegible]

and haves children, Dania Joy 6 years old and Russell Lloyd 2 years old. Lloyd works in the Co-op Store. Linda worked for Alta Telephones leaving to be at home with the family.

David and Barbara (Fleming) Spencer live in Kamloops, B.C. David is a qualified bricklayer and works for Alton Ltd. Barbara is a receptionist for a firm of accountants.

I was divorced and met my present husband in Winnipeg. We later moved to Kamloops, B.C. and when Peter retired we returned to his home town of Winnipegosses, Man.

Submitted by Verna Lillian Cockerill (McInnis).

The McInnis family

I was born in Wadena, Sask. on Oct. 22, 1931 and attended Duck Creek School from grades one through grade ten. I started school in 1937 andin Grades one and two my teacher was Miss Amy Eskelson. The other two in my class were the Moore twins--Jimmy? and Leslie. About the second year in school they moved with their parents back to England. I wouldn't have had any classmates in gr. three so I was allowed to skip that grade and go into grade four. My teacher that year was Mr. Donald Leitch and one of my class mates was Jamie Wright. We may have been the only two in that grade at I don't recall anyone else. In grades five and six the teacher was Joe [illegible] and [illegible] teacher was Miss Betty Allward. Grades nine and ten I took correspondence courses at the school with the assistance of the teacher who at that time was Miss Frances Guest. Grades eleven and twelve I took at Strathclair, Manitoba where I stayed during the school year with my aunt and uncle.

I was out of school for one year before starting my nurses training at St. Anthony's Hospital at Le Pas, Manitoba. I graduated in 1952 as a registered nurse and worked after at Kenora, Ontario, Virden, Manitoba, Calgary, Alberta, and Vancouver, B.C.

I was married in 1959 to Keith Cockerill from Winnipeg, Man. and we have resided in Kenora since then. My husband is a machinist at the Boise Cascade Pulp and Paper Mill here. We have two daughters Alana aged 16 and Dayna aged 14 who are presently in High School.

I have worked part-time for the past ten years at a nursing home until June 1979 when I retired from nursing.

I have many good memories of my days at Duck Creek School. The biggest event of the year was always the annual Xmas concert at Meadow Bank Hall. It took weeks of practice to prepare for and always meant getting a new dress, even if it was a home made one. The concert was always held in the evening and the hall was always packed with people. It was the biggest event of the year. In the summer there were picnics and ball games at the Hall or across the lake. Church and Sunday School were held at the Hall on Sundays during the summer months. In the fall there was an annual Fowl supper and bazar. Other enjoyable times were berry-picking and harvest time. Although there was lots of hard work to be done in the fall, it was the most enjoyable time of the year.

Submitted by Clifford McInnis

I was born in Wadena, Sask. on July 12, 1933. I was the fourth child of Mr and Mrs. Peter McInnis of Kelvington.

I attended Duck Creek School from 1939 till 1947.

I left my parents farm in 1948 to go north. I worked in various jobs in the north until 1953, at which time I joined the R.C.A.F. spending two years in Prince Edward Island. Upon discharge from the airforce I moved to B.C. and worked for the lumber Industry. I married Muriel Biggins of Coquitlam, B.C. in 1963. We have one son, Dwayne Peter born Sept. 1968.

We moved to Smithers in Northern B.C. in 1973 where I am employed by the Province of B.C. with the Ministry of Highways.

Submitted by Lloyd McInnis

I was born in Wadena in 1934. My fathers name wasPeter and my Mothers name was Lillian. I have three brothers: Ronald, Clifford and Jimmie and two sisters Joyce and Verna.

I attended Duck Creek School till Grade 7 after which time I went to Brand and Kelvington.

I worked as a heavy equipment operator till 1957, then I joined the R.C.A.F. for 3 years.I have lived in Port Moody, B.C. for the last 20 years and am active in community work.

I have one son, Tom and a daughter Melody Jane.

**Submitted by James Edwin McInnis**

My parents moved to Ke
I was born at Wadena,

.n time to haul the teachers

we got tired of liste
old cars down
ing harvesting
would stop
re was a
es and o

I moved to British Col
married Alberta Burns in October
Beverley Ann born in 1962 and Sand
1960 to 1974 I worked in a sawmill at New
October 1974 we sold our home in Sur
anderhoff, B.C. We moved up to W
w ere we are presently, residing.

Jimmy, Malcolm and Lloyd

## Mr. and Mrs. Alf Messenger

Alf Messenger came to Canada in 1911 at the tender age of 5 years. He hailed from Stanton, Worcestershire in the Rural District of Newent, England.

Mary (Macsmar) Messenger met Alf Messenger in 1928 in the Meadow Park hall, where Alf was a drummer with the Dynamite Five and his brother Bert, the floor manager. Alf attended Duck Creek School. Alf's father and mother lived on the farm now owned and operated by Donald Peterson. There was a large family, to this union 3 boys and 3 girls and Alf was the second youngest son.

There was three children born to the Alf Messenger union. The Messenger children had a small white pony they called Jenn. and I am sure this pony took all the family and many of the neighbors children to school. In 1931 the Messengers fostered another child Joan Holstrom, who is now Mrs. Chuck Malappee of Clair.

Alf Messenger was well known for his neighborly acts of kindness, he always drove a well trained, groomed team of horses. The team was named Ned and Dollie.

Alf loved to pick up a bunch of neighbors with the team and caboose and go to Meadow Park Hall.

Alf farmed the NE ¼ of 5-31-12.

I recall so well when Harold and Marlene were young, they went to Littles to visit. It was just after a large rain, they were barefooted. The Littles were away, so the children went to John Sloneshine home, Opal took them in, washed them and took them home. We were happy to see them, so they went unpunished.

Alf, pictured on the left with his favorite horse Jenn. He drove Joan to school. He helped with farm chores and drove a tractor while on the farm.

Harold; married Nina Grenrude of Wadena, have a daughter Patrice, live in Surrey B.C. Harold is a truck driver.

Joan, (Mrs. Chuck) Malappe live at Clair, they have five children, Brenda, Bonnie, Douglas, Dennis and Treves.

Marlene; Mrs. Ernie Erickson, they live at Rosetown.

Alf passed away in 1959. Mrs. Messenger and Arnol moved to Wadena where they now reside.

Submitted by Marlene ( Messenger ) Erickson.

I, Marlene Helen Erickson. My fathers name was Alfred Messenger born at Staughton England. My mother was Mary Paesmar, born at Esterhazy, Sask. My oldest brother is Arnol, then Harold and one foster sister Joan. My dad was a farmer and lived on the S.E.¼ -5-3 -W-I2. He loved trapping and hunting.

My best friend was Donna Tweidt. My best experience was when I was on my way to school one morning. I rolled my caboose and horse (Jenn), as I was leaving the yard. My family and Ernie came out to see what happened. I was crying, looking out of my caboose Ernie laughed at me. I threw a block of wood at him. Then they picked up the caboose and Jenn. Dad kissed me and I was on my way to school once more.

I went to High School at Wadena and later on married Ernest Erickson. We lived at Wiseton Sask. for one year. Since then at Rosetown Sask. We have two daughters. Janice, age I7, in grade I2. Verna age I6, in grade II. They are parttime cooks at the Voyageur. Ernie works for Co-Op Implements. I'm employed with the Rosetown Co-Op for over I5 years. In the Grocery Dept. Head Cashier.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Messenger.

Submitted by Doug Messenger.

Richard James Messenger, born August I2, I8[illegible], in the village of Hasfield, Gloucestershire, England. Emigrated to Brazil at the age of 6, back to England 2 years later. Married Harriet Hood, July I2, I897, Emigrated to Canada in I900. Homesteaded in the Meadow Bank district. Farmed until I9[illegible]. Was a member of the council of the R.M. of Saskatchewan for 8 years.

They had 8 sons and three daughters, all born in England, except Walter who was born at Meadow Bank.

Children; James (Jim) of Fairlight, Sask.
Samuel (Sam) Chandler Alta, Ont. - deceased.
John (Jack) Meadow Bank - deceased.
Gwendoline (Gwen) Mrs. Arthur Weaver Pelvington.
Frederick (Fred) Carseairs, Alberta.
William (Bill) Wadena - deceased.
Beatrice Mrs. Fred Dyer Aylsham - deceased
Edwin Pelvington - deceased.
Herbert (Bert) Grand Forks, B.C.
Catherine (Cathy) Mrs. Fred Adams Pelvington.
Alfred (Alf) Wadena - deceased.
Walter Meadow Bank -,deceased.

Submitted by Bert Messenger.

I did not go to school for toolong at Duck Creek, can't remember the teachers. My parents came from England.Dad, Richard James

essenger, in 1900 took up a homestead in Meadow Bank on .E ¼ -26-12. Mother and 5 children, Edwin, Beatrice, Herbert, lfred and Catherine came in February 1910 to the homestead.

Father's trade in England was as a factory worker building sugar [illegible].

wife, Pauline and I live at Grand Forks, B.C.

## Mr. and Mrs. Fred Messenger

### Fred Messenger

red Messenger was born in 1885, at [illegible] Worcestershire, England. He came to Canada in 1910. He had £2 in his pocket when he got on the boat. Bert Johns of Meadow Bank had loaned his fare to come over to Canada. He worked [illegible] year for Bert Johns to pay back the advance.

[illegible] and went overseas. Came back on [illegible] 1919, [illegible] married Aline Marie [illegible] on April 12 1920 in Nanaimo. Had three sons and one daughter. [illegible] Douglas and Marie of Calgary, [illegible] Williams Lake, B.C.

Had retired after farming for 20 years. In between was farming and engaged in municipal affairs, serving as the reeve of [illegible] for seven years and was also secretary of the Nanaimo Agricultural Association for eight years.

He was a great [illegible] interested in field sports and was a member of the Nanaimo Gun Club and was one of the founders of the Nanaimo Rod and Gun Club. In recognition of his services to the [illegible] sports, he was given honorary life membership in both associations.

He and Douglas went to the creek to fish for some time, where they [illegible] for a couple of years. [illegible] to Kelvington High School. He and Douglas finished [illegible] at Kelvington High School. Marvel and Nicola finished their [illegible] at Kelvington High School and Kelvington [illegible].

## Mr. and Mrs. James Messenger

### [illegible] Mrs. Messenger

James Messenger came to Canada from Gloucestershire, England in 1909. In England he farmed with his father and also drove a livery and delivered parcels.

When he came to Canada, he came to Cardale, Man. where he worked on a farm for a few years, then in 1914 came to Fenwood, Sask. He farmed there and married Edith Benvestory, she was born in Grennel Iowa, U.S.A. She had come to Fenwood with her parents.

Their first daughter Mae, was born there and they moved to the Meadow Bank area when she was a year old. They had five daughters, Mae, Mrs. Seymour Leitch of Hendon, Ethel, Mrs. Paul Schukta of Archerwill, Doris, Mrs. Bud Bridal of Wadena, Alice, Mrs. Wally Fidelak of Fairlight, Ida, Mrs. Wally Chubeck of Kuroki.

In 1946 Mrs. Messenger passed away. Jim then sold his farm and retired first in Wadena and then on Vancouver Island at Nanaimo.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Monson.

Mr. and Mrs. Monson homesteaded the N E.¼ 36- 36- 12.

There were five children born to this union and all attended Duck Creek School. Katrina, Euphemia, Mary, Agata and Erhard (Richard

Richard passed away in the 1970's and Agata had predeceased her brother. Agata was married to Albert Annett and for years lived in the Hendon District where they raised their family . Her husband has now retired and lives in Wadena.

Submitted by Mary Meade (Moore)

George Arthur Moore
Alice Maude Moore, family - Mary, Thomas, George & Leslie (twins) Lived on Section 15

The family came from England, lived in Manitoba through the 1920's, then settled in Meadow Bank 1931 to 1938, then returned to England

The father's trade in England was a car mechanic, mother's maiden name was Taylor, both English.

While in my teens, my three brothers were born. We lived on a small farm and in the depression of the 1930s. My folks could not afford a hired girl, so I stayed home to help my mother, so was not able to go out to work and earn money. My mother was in poor health for a while after the twin brothers were born. We lived in a two-roomed house, two small houses put together with a wide passage between them, big enough for a small room, which my father built on.

The lake ran through our land, ½ section, some of our land

on one side of it and some on the other side. There was a lot of bush on our land. My father used to chop down trees and bought a sawing outfit to saw the trees. The blocks of wood were sold. He also went places sawing wood for people. The neighbors used to come and help. My father had to chop down trees and clear and break the land so we could have more crop. By this time he was in ill health. I remember how the lake used to freeze deep. People came from miles around with ice saws to cut the ice into blocks and load it onto their sleighs to take home to melt it for soft water.

One day a friend of ours, Jim Wright was cutting ice and slipped and fell with his arm on the saw. He cut his arm badly. In winter my father would go to the lake and chop a hole through the ice so we could take the cows and horses down to drink. My father built a log barn which was quite warm.

We used to walk a quarter of a mile to the mail box on the road allowance twice a week for our mail.

Meadow Bank Hall has many happy memories for me, dances every three weeks, usually bridal showers, church services, etc. My 21st birthday was held there.

By this time, in 1934, I met Glen Meade from Langenburg, Saskatchewan. He had come north with 100 head of cattle. He worked for a rancher. As it had been a dried out year in the south, the rancher, Ed Hale sent his nephew and two hired hands with these cattle. They wintered them on the ¼ section to ours which belonged to a cattle buyer, named Tom Brewse. Glen never went back to Langenburg.

We were married in 1938 and held our Wedding Dance in Meadow Bank Hall. The Dynamite Five Band played for us. They were local boys who played for the dances, Charlie Howat, Lawton Gowan, Alec Gowan, Horace Newman and Clarence Mascear.

**Submitted by Leslie Moore.**

**The family name is Moore, my father's name was George Arthur and my mother's name was Alice Maud, but they are both deceased. My older sister is Mary Victoria Meade, my brother is Thomas and my twin brother is George. George and I were born on October 19th, 1931 at Wadena Hospital. We were baptized at the home of my parents at Meadow Bank, by Rev. A.W. Atkinson on November 16th 1932.**

**Our house was situated on Sec. 1, [illegible] Meadow Bank, but before coming to Canada my family lived in Hinckley, Leicestershire, which is an industrial town almost in the centre of England. My father worked as a car mechanic before going to Canada and my mothers family name was Taylor and they were both British subjects.**

**Both my brothers and myself attended Duck Creek School and our teachers names were Miss Eskelson and the Headmaster was Mr. Bordson. I do not remember very much about our school days as I was only at school for a short time. I can remember a few of our classmates,**

including Jamie, Shirley and Frances Wright, the Prybelski family, Stuart and Jean Donald, Ruby and Amos Avery. My brothers and I attended Meadow Bank Sunday School and our teacher was Rena Donald.

In 1938 my father was not enjoying the best of health and we returned to England in October of that year.

My wife Jean and I have two daughters and a son, I am employed in the hosiery trade which incorporates the manufacture of tights, socks, knitwear and underwear. The textile industry is the main trade in this area where I live.

Submitted by George Moore.

I was born in October in Wadena Saskatchewan.

I left Canada for England in the summer of 1939 on the ship Montrose.

I went to Duck Creek school Meadow Bank and was taught by Miss Eskelson.

Duck Creek School was a wooden building with only one classroom. Different grades were seperated by sitting in certain rows of benches. There was one teacher who taught all grades and ages. I was at the school for about 18 months and in the winter dad would get us there by toboggan.

Our house in Meadow Bank consisted of two wooden buildings connected by a covered passage. One building was used as a bedroom and the other was used for living in. The house was situated at the edge of the lake, and one winter they towed it across the frozen water, but didn't tell us kids in case we wanted a day off from school to help.

We had two horses, Buster who was lazy, and Nell. We also had a few cows and a dog. Buster died when he slipped in the stable and broke his leg. Dad dragged his body out and we used to pass the skeleton every day on the way to school. I remember that in the winter local people, and ourselves would get soft water by cutting chunks of ice from the lake and melting it down.

I remember the dances that were held at Meadow Bank Hall because when they went on late the youngsters like me were put to bed in bunks in another room at the hall. Some nights we went home from the dances in a "Caboose" which was a caravan on ski's with a fire in the middle.

I remember a man called Freddie Jones leaving an old engine in his back yard. He said he'd give me a dollar if I could start it. I never did.

There was a playing field with gopher holes in it. We used to try to catch the gophers at playtime. Another game was swinging from the rafters in the barn where the horses were kept.

Submitted by Tom Moore.

We lived on Section 15, At Meadow Bank. My father was a car mechanic

I remember my classmates as being the Wright's, Avery's Frybelski's and Donald families.

I was nine years old when I left the Meadow Bank area. I now live in England.

## Dan Morrison Family.

Submitted by Ben Morrison.

D.J.Morrison ( Dan ) homesteaded the N.E.¼ 16-16-12, in 1907. He sold this homestead to Mr. Linden in 1912 and moved to Wadena. This land is now part of the present Linden farm at the east end of Harrison's Lake.

The Morrison's came to Sask. from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Their forefathers came from Scotland to Cape Breton about 1820. These people built their own sailing ships and crossed the Atlantic, duing a three month voyage.

Mrs. Morrison's maiden name was Jessie McMillan. She had been educated as a school teacher but enjoyed book-keeping. Dan Morrison was a very able and versatile settler. His people were engaged in fishing, lumbering and to some extent in farming in Cape Breton. He was well aquainted with hard work in the east.

On arriving on the homestead, he shouldered the logs about one-quarter mile to build the homestead house Shown in the picture below. His range of befitting language was greatly expanded while trying to operate a binder drawn by four oxen. However, the oxen were soon replaced by horses.

Mr. Morrison, Ben and Neil.

Mrs. Morrison, being skilled in book keeping took care of the first Post Office at Meadow Bank. Mr. Heffren was the mail driver from Wadena to Kelvington.

Many a small grocery and tobacco order was placed with the mail driver who had a marvelous memory. It was not necessary to give Mr. Heffern a list of things to get, you just told him. He would bring it on his return from town.

The Duck Creek School was built about 1909 and I think the first Meadow Bank picnic was also held in that year. This picnic was held on the E ½ [illegible] on the north side of Eriksson's lake. Of these two events the Picnic seemed to be the more important to me at age 7. The Duck Creek School was operated during the summer months, and all the pupils walked to school. We had a fine young man as the first teacher. I remember he taught us to add rapidly. Then Mrs. Grot Bronsdon taught us how to draw trees - not like the trees at Meadow Bank, but like the trees that grew in Ontario from where she came.

Then there was a short little fellow, Mr. Sanger, who taught us to sing a hymn "O God Our Help In Ages Past" However, when I landed in school in Madoc, at age 10, I was put in Grade I.I. I could do grade 7 arithmetic, but I was very poor in read[illegible]

When I attended Duck Creek School, many of the students were Hansons. There was Richard, Mary, Agnes, Eugene and Ernest, the strong boy. I remember [illegible] Burns a most conscientious student, who walked over two and a half miles to school rain or shine. Irene Linden and my brother Neil also attended part time. There were others whose names I can not recall. Of course we all took our lunch to school. We did not have anything to play with such as a ball. The girls stayed in a group by themselves while the boys did a lot of running about the school yard.

There was a well with a green pump on it in one corner of the school yard. The water was not fit to drink, but it was cold and good for squirting on one another. The teacher used a school bell to call us in to the school room that always smelt like plasterine. We used slates for most of our work. It was expedient to keep scratching on that slate, silence was suspicious. All in all those days are pleasant to recall.

According to the calender, 67 years have passed along in close proximity since I attended Duck Creek School and walked dreamingly in the fields of Meadow Bank. During that period I have wandered far and studied hard, and now I am retired from the Dept. Research Council. My work in science started at Meadow Bank in that log house before the age of 8 years, it seems just like it was yesterday.

Submitted by Neil Morrison.

I was born in 1904, so it is a long time ago since I went to Duck Creek School. I have one brother Ben and one sister Eunice born in 1910, Ben was born in 1902.

My father was a carpenter also done blacksmithing on the homestead. Mother had the Post Office in our home.

Some of the experiences I recall going to school on the bush path and sometimes had to climb up to give a skunk time to get across.

Ben and I trapped muskrats on the lake alongside our home, got fourty rats the year we went to Wadena and got the big sum of 15¢ each.

The farming was all done by Oxen, I remember the first horse and buggy going by and the man look so contented and he was whistling. Also the first car, every one would say we saw the car, it was driven by Herb Perice, Member of Parliment. So you would only see this around election time, I guess we must have had a dry spell as there was no roads built for cars then.

I only went to Duck Creek school a couple of terms, I remember Mr. Sanger and Mrs. Branscombe as my teachers, we then moved to Wadena in 1913 as I went to a school on the N.W. corner of the school yard while the Red Brick school was under construction.

I am now retired and living at Flin Flon.

## Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nelson

Submitted by Martha Westerlund (Nelson)

My fathers name was Nels Fritiof Nelson, my mothers name Kristina, and we three children, Ingrid, Verner and myself. My parents came from Tarnaby Vesterbotten, Sweden. And were farmers, back in the 1920's the depression was also being felt in Sweden. So in order to support the family my father had to do hunting and trapping as a side line, besides farming. He shot fox and sold skins which were high priced then, sold our furs and made enough money to travel to Canada.

We were the first family to leave Vesterbotten for Canada. On 11th of May 1928 we started out on our journey, we travelled via Liverpool on an Ocean Liner called the "Montcalm" It took us over a month to reach Canada, land of our hopes and dreams. We came to Winnipeg and from there the Swedish Consulate sent us to Wadena, a Scandinavian settlement. Here Leonard Wreede met us at the station, and had arranged for us to live temporarily on the Beckman farm, opposite Ernest Lindstrome, for the remainder of the summer and winter. Here we met the Lindstroms, Richard and Martin Norberg and father worked with them during harvest. He also helped to build the sidewalks in Wadena.

We bought our first team of horses, and three cows at an auction sale in Clair. And in the spring of 1929 we bought and moved to our new home, five miles east and south of Nendon. Sec. 2- 36- 13, which my brother Verner farms.

In the spring of 1929, I started going to Rotnum School. My first teacher was Charley Spencer. My first day at school was not a happy day. I can remember how I sat behind that big stove and cried. Because I could not understand a word of English, but I learned that Edith and John Hansen spoke Swedish, also met Norweigan children like, Roy Rotnum, the Tweidt's, Scarmstad's and Ostlies. Mr. Spencer was very understanding and good to me.

Submitted by Verner Nelson.

Mr. & Mrs. Nelson

[illegible] harvested, came also the "big crash".

## Ingrid (Linde) Nelson

Ingrid was the eldest child of Nels and Kristina Nelson coming with her parents, brother and sister to Canada from Tarnaby, Vasterbatten, Sweden where she had already entered school.

In 1920 the family settled on Sec 2 - 36- 13, now farmed by brother Verner.

In 1940 she married a local chap, Chris Hagen, who had come from Norway. They settled on SW¼ - 1 - 36 - 13 (presently owned by Frank Gitek) and later moved to Hendon where they operated a cafe.

Two children were born, a daughter Ellen and a son Maurice.

Chris passed away as the result of an accident while working for the Pool construction.

Ellen became a registered nurse and married Linus Westberg of Yorkton, who works with C K.O.S. television station. They have three children. Maurice is married, has two daughters and works as contract foreman in N.W.T.

Ingrid is presently Mrs. Archie Linde and they make their home on the farm between Hendon and Wadena.

She is an avid plant lover and their yard in summer with the flowers in bloom, is a real pretty spot.

Left; Mr.and Mrs. Bob Gowan

Above; Stuart Donald on his pony "Dick".

recess time. A circle was completed in the dusty ground behind the [illegible] and two of us at a time would step inside the circle and have [illegible] it out. The one being first forced outside the circle was the [illegible]. Inevitably ended up with a brawl once before recess was over.

Some years later I was on the [illegible] ball team and I'm certain each of us on the team put a certain amount of pride and satisfaction for each game won against teams from neighboring schools. The games were also played on Fridays after last recess. So we then had a two week break to enjoy ourselves. Either going away to play under country schools or getting ready for their expected arrival at our school. As to the way it is now, the I'd to add a county of one cent per pound to [illegible] was dropped to 3 a cent per ton. So that nothing remains either to enjoy or [illegible] to the school grounds because part of the [illegible] activities [illegible] far as here, during recess and noon hour now.

Some ball and our [illegible] of foot ball. Some like European soccer and our main sports activity during the winter months. This also sometimes resulted in bloody noses and the occasional fights.

Christmas and the school Christmas concert was a big something we practiced hard for and looked forward to. The night of the concert was real exciting because lots of parents and most everyone in the surrounding area would be there. They would listen to our singing [illegible] and recitations. Sometimes the unexpected would also happen [illegible] at the time when Mr. Spicer was progress chairman and called his kids off the stage and for, into the aud and to an empty seat to [illegible] our marriages. Luckily, he does a hurt or hurt anyone else either.

The first year I attended school at Lorena I walked to school, a distance of about three miles. In the winters when the weather was real cold or stormy I stayed home unless dad had time to take me to school. As a result I missed a [illegible] but later when dad thought I was big enough he bought me a school pass. We must have got this pass from a friend because that pass was a month out of me. I never did use that pass a good deal when pa'ts crossed from up in front of his office grading in the park and, but let a [illegible] [illegible] up from the roadside [illegible] when I rode his and that horse would jump over just anywhere [illegible] getting [illegible] out on. That horse owned [illegible] a short and head to a home on a dead gallop. I never did have a saddle for that but did use his pad, the same kind as an [illegible] rider. I finally solved that problem by getting a second hand [illegible] or what is [illegible] hand' but they it did have the [illegible] and hand a [illegible] [illegible] for that ride, as there was no [illegible] tell dinner and the dinner packaged from a half dozen [illegible] [illegible] from the previous winter. That fall I got [illegible] to make up a pair of pads and [illegible] from [illegible] that happened to either side of [illegible] to and from school.

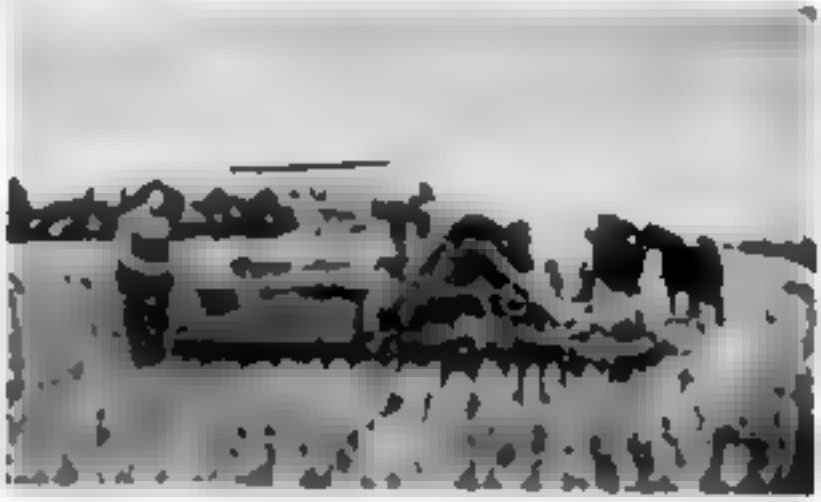
[illegible] [illegible] during the early winter months on my way to school, he and a few of the [illegible] [illegible] for [illegible]. On up the [illegible] school [illegible] [illegible] started to do a bit of [illegible] trapping of [illegible] going to and from school. For a [illegible] spring he [illegible] a real [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

drunk and arrived at school that morning, we were told by our teacher to leave skunks alone during the school week.

I never did receive a strapping during all the years I attended school at Rotnum. I did however, stay in after school for almost a whole month, after taking part in a toilet tipping exercise with our teacher in it. It was taboo for a teacher to smoke during school hours. So this teacher used the boys toilet to have his smoke. It was on one such occasion that us older boys decided to tip the toilet with the teacher inside it. We never attempted that stunt again nor did he use the toilet for a smoker. There are many other incidents I could relate, but all in all I owe a sincere thank you to all my teachers who worked so hard for our education. There was times when one teacher had over 35 students from grade 1 to 9 or 10, and I must say the teachers did an admirable job. I must also mention Miss Margaret Davis who taught Sunday School for a while at Rotnum.

The Jacob Ostlie Family

Jacob Ostlie was born in 1873 at Clermont, Iowa and Caroline Knudson was born at Redwing, Minnesota in 1872. They were married in 1894 and had eleven children. The family immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1920 from Northwood, North Dakota, settling first at Theodore, Saskatchewan where five brothers attended school. They later moved to Springside, Saskatchewan where four brothers attended the Beaverdale School.



A Harvest Scene on the Ostlie farm in 1928

The next move was to Yorkton in 1924, where a farm was purchased on the E ½ of Section 29, Twp. 96, R. 13 W 2 M. While clearing land the family resided on the Curry place. During this time Martin attended the Victoria Park school until a move was made to the Holstein home and he then went to the Rotnum school. In 1929 they moved to their farm where they built a home, then started school there, attending the Rotnum School along with Martin.

The teacher in 1928 was Charles Spencer who was followed by Miss Campbell. After her term was completed Mr. Spencer returned to Rotnum. Then Miss Bryant taught followed by Miss Evelyn Dahlshaug, Mr. Earl Leach and Miss Vera Linstrom.

Gradually the family left home for other parts of the country.

Caroline passed away in 1948 and Jacob in 1954. Oliver passed away at Rendon in 1927. Myrtle was killed by a hit and run driver while vacationing in California in 1971. Edith married Fred Burns of Springside, Saskatchewan and is now a widow living in Seattle, Washington. They have one son, Robert. Cora, who married Charles Walker of Peterborough, Ontario is also a widow and lives in Canoga Park, California. Annard married Grace MacAvoy of Seattle and they have two children, Charles and Catherine. Russell married Emma Hyldahl of Seattle and have one son, Russell Junior. Martin married Sylvia Hanson of Duluth, Minnesota. Martin is now a widower and lives in Seattle. The twins, Kenneth and Joseph passed away in 1962 and 1975 respectively. Glen married Florence Backlund. They have two children, Gerald and Gwen. Glen and Florence live on the home place at Rendon.

## The Glen Ostlie

Glen Ostlie (Norwegian), Florence Backlund (Swedish) from Marrow school district west of Rendon. Glen's teachers while attending Rotnam school were Miss.Dalshaug, Miss Bryant, Charles Spencer, Mabel Lindstrom, Don Leitch. Classmates were Sam Tweidt, Hans Peterson, Stanley Larson, Ethel Schau, Martha Nelson, Sammie Evans.

Mr.and Mrs. Glenn Ostlie live on their farm E½ 23, 36, 13. Besides farming, Glenn has worked at the Wadena Auction Market and also with the Bridge Crew (Department of Highways) during winter months. Florence was a member of the staff lunch counter for eleven years at the Wadena Auction Market.

Gerald is married to Caroline Shewchuk from MacNutt, Saskatchewan. They reside at Leross where Gerald is Supervisor of Highways. Caroline is the Lab Technologist at St. Joseph's Hospital at Lestock.

Gerald attended public school at Rotnam. Teachers were Mrs. Frank Gutek and Don Leitch. Classmates were Donna Tweidt and Darold Leepart. He graduated from Wadena Composite High School, then worked with the Department of Highways at Wadena and Kuroki. The office is at Elfros where he worked prior to moving to Leross.

Gerald, being musically inclined has played with various bands and for the past thirteen years as lead guitarist with the "Garnet" orchestra.

## Gwendolyn Ostlie

Gwendolyn attended Rotnam School, Wadena High School and graduated in 1967. She worked as a bookkeeper at the Wadena Co-op for 2½ years. She married Don Stroshein from Wadena in 1969.

They lived in Calgary for one year where she took training as a Hospital Assistant. Don started work with Saskatchewan Pool in 1971. They lived in Jedburgh where she worked at the hospital in Theodore. In 1974 they moved to Marshall, Saskatchewan and she worked at Roblin, Manitoba.

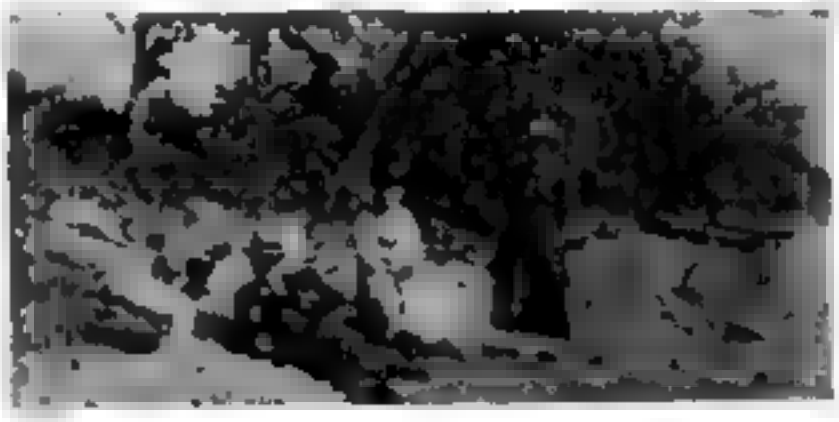
In 1976 our son, Deron was born. In 1978 we moved to Saltcoats where we now reside.

## Dorothy Otter

Dorothy Otter was the eldest daughter of Willie and Christine Otter. She attended Retnum School for a short while in 1928 while living with Grandma and Grandpa Otter on the farm now owned by Ken Gutek.

## Mr. & Mrs. Wm Otter

Mr. & Mrs. Otter were both born and raised in England and they had operated a hotel there, prior to coming to Canada. Because of Mr. Otter's illness, the doctor thought the climate would be better for his health than the dampness of the English climate. Mr. Otter had a family of five children by his first marriage, Florrie, Rose, Mae, Violet (Mrs. Joe Brice) Willie. He later married Annie Richards and she with her husband and his family came to Canada and the Wallace district in the Yorkton area in 1903. They later moved to the Meadow Bank district where they farmed the NW ¼ 20-36-12. Upon retirement, they moved to Kelvington where they lived until Mrs. Otter passed away in 1929. Mr. Otter then went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Joe Brice until his passing.



Mr. & Mrs. Wm Otter, Sam, Albert and Mrs. Lancaley

## The Parish Family

Richard and Amy Parish came to Canada in 1911 and arrived in Regina. They spent the early part of their years in the Leask Yorkton districts working for various farmers. To this union there were four children, Richard & Thomas who were born in England and Albert (Bert) and Phyllis who were born in Saskatchewan.

In 1921 the Parish's moved to the family homestead in the Lintlaw area. In the early days Mr. Parish and his eldest son, Richard used to come to the Kelvington area to thresh. On many occasions they threshed with the Robert Gowans. Wages were very poor and the work was hard. Mrs. Parish used to stay on the homestead with the rest of the family where there was cattle and other chores to do.

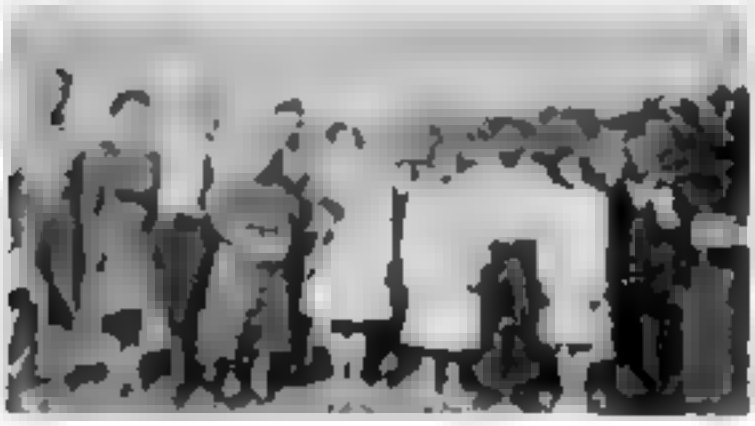
In 1928 the family moved from Lintlaw to the Duck Creek district and lived on the former Jack Gowan place. The two youngest children,

Bert and Phyllis attended Duck Creek School.

Phyllis (Parish) Little remembers quite well when she went to Duck Creek school and Olive Ekman, a school chum invited her to come to her house and stay over night. When they got to the Ekman home, Olive's parents where not home, and Olive and I decided to bake a cake. We selected our favorite recipe - a coffee cake. We followed the recipe very well, until it called for one cup of coffee. We used one cup of ground coffee. How delighted we were to have followed the recipe so well. But we were digusted to see the cake, it was just like cement. What pleasant memories.

They lived in the Duck Creek district for thirteen years, and then made a final move in 1941 to the quarter that their third son, Bert now operates. Mrs. Parish raised extra money, selling eggs, chickens and cream. A record that has been kept by her daughter, Phyllis, registered four dozen eggs were sold for .50¢, two chickens for $1.32 and a turkey sold for $2.40. In 1942 they sold 50 bushels of wheat for $19.00 and five gallons brought $5.32. A gallon of coal was .30¢

Mr. Parish passed away in 1961 at the age of 71 years. Shortly after the death of her husband, Mrs. Parish moved her house into the yard of her daughter, Phyllis Little. She spent 16 years there until her death in July 1967.



Left to Right - Dick and Lorraine, Mr. and Mrs. Parish, Tom & Evelyn, Mr. & Mrs. Erickson, Bert and Doris, Bill Clarkson

Richard Parish Junior is retired and he and his wife reside in Tuffnell, Saskatchewan. They have two children, George of Esterhaz and Sandra (Mrs. Sandra Andrecowich) of Wadena.

Tom Parish and his wife, Evelyn (Erickson) reside on a farm northeast of Wadena. Three girls were born to this union, Linda (Mrs. Doug Schnieder) of Martinsville, Darlene (Mrs. Pat Santo) of Prince Albert and Lila at home.

(Albert (Bert) Parish and his wife, Doris (Erickson) live in Wadena. They have one son, Albert who farms the former Lytle farm.

Phyllis Parish (Little) and her husband, Jim are retired on

their home in the Galveston district. They have two sons and two daughters-one of Bayou. One of Deseno who completed his parents' farm. Members of Bayou and history of Dickinson. They now have six grandchildren.

Submitted by Carlene Neville Peters

[illegible] Peters was deceased another from [illegible] Peters [illegible] to Bayou [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

money home to be used for necessities. When Carl was 11 years old, his mother and other members of the family decided to make a new farm home in Alabama. Their dreams of establishing a new life were shattered when they soon discovered the land they had purchased was dried out and useless for crops or garden. Their investment had to be abandoned and they returned to Erie again.

Canada and the United States were in an era of discovery and expansion. Carl and one of his older brothers headed west in search of work and a new life. They ended up in Canada, employed by the Canadian Bridge Company at Edmonton. His duties ranged from man's helper to riveter carrier and driving the "steaming" years of any apprentice had to put to build the steel bridge across the North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton and another big bridge at Prince George, British Columbia. Carl was saving his money and planning for the day when he would have a farm of his own.

Carl had heard of homesteads in Saskatchewan covering grain lands and decided to move to a place in Red Deer. A land representative told him that land was for sale for cropping and grazing at reasonable prices. One cool spring day in 1907 Carl stood on the Ostrom railway platform with his belongings and he could hardly wait to see and work the land he purchased from a homesteader by the name of Reed. Some hours later and sixteen winding miles further north to get to a clearing on a hillside. There was a log, sod covered shack and a poorly constructed barn there. The roof leaked when the rain poured and was cold during the coldest part of the winter, but it was his and that was the important thing.

From here on it was toil from early morning to dusk. Summer heat and mosquitoes and the bitter cold of January were [illegible] but somehow he felt deep down in his heart that good earth and his dreams were worth it. And rewarding he persevered and had faith in what he was doing. And so it was - the work, he knew very hard. A good team of horses, some cows, a few pigs and a few acres that was needed in those early years. A small [illegible] for winter and later on a pump to replace the [illegible] pump was called "Red Jacket" in the [illegible] and a [illegible] for a river and a trifle for winter, with a set of [illegible] to add a touch of [illegible] the frosty air.

Perhaps the most common [illegible] of the time was the organ, radio and one can never forget the [illegible] that had [illegible] Then there is Edgar Morgan and [illegible] with long hair for as far as the eye can see. No one will ever forget a "happy song" [illegible] per the Eaton catalogue served to the [illegible] was the most read book of that era and when the catalogue was old and worn, it still served a very special purpose to a...the family members.

Other people settled in the area and the closest neighbors included the [illegible] to the north. Mr. Leonard Ha[illegible] and his family of pretty girls. The Hallman family of [illegible] were musical, talented and dancing added a bright time to the parties and [illegible] Hallman Harrison family and the [illegible] Ware family were a much welcoming to lend a helping hand during a friend's time of need and the ladies cooking was hard to beat.

Then there was the Jay Harrison and family, good stock from

Missouri, U.S.A. who kept his southern drawl all through his life. His buggy and sorrel mare were never to be parted and remained to be a mode of reliable transportation for Jay, till both buggy and horse became too old and worn out. Carl mentioned many times about Mrs. Weeklund's fresh bread that tasted excellent. Other neighbors also added to the community and its affairs.

Threshing time was a prime example of neighborly cooperation and participation. The old belt driven separator was often kept humming till late at night. Field pitcher's arms ached and the teams often balked for another load of bundles when the days were stretched out.

The barber is Carl and the victim is John Weeklund.

The Sunday afternoon haircut performance. Carl claims it was a fair cut, rather uneven and would consider it 1/2 crop grown on a Swede - John Weeklund.

Every straw and grain kernel was handled by muscle, three times before the straw pile and at least four times after the straw pile. It is little wonder, then why the shoulders and backs of our forefathers were well rounded and their hands stiffened from long periods of over use. Today, who would think of hauling grain in a 100 bushel sleigh box, 16 miles to Wadena with 2 teams all frosted up on a cold winters day. Carl was gone by 6 a.m. with a load, headed for Wadena, unloaded by noon and after some groceries and supplies obtained, headed back home again. It was late that night when finally the team were unharnessed and all the chores done.

The railway was soon to come to Hendon in 1923 and some farmers even got trucks later on. It certainly was a lot closer to deliver the grain and market livestock and get your groceries and farm supplies.

THE COYOTE CHASE - Carl loved riding horse back and one of his most exciting winter sports was chasing coyotes. On one such occassion, Carl had started a coyote and was closing in on the tired animal. The weapon he used was a ten-foot stick. When he was about to jump the fence the stick caught and the end hit him in the face, tearing a hole in his cheek. He realized the gash in his face was in need of immediate attention and the coyote was forgotten. He held his arm over his cheek and headed for the nearest neighbor, Mr. Jay Garrison, and with his help went over to Mr. William Harrisons' . When he got to the house, he persuaded Mr. Harrison to try and stitch up the hole in his cheek.

This incident however, did not deter Carl from chasing coyotes, this time, with the use of a .22 calibre rifle instead of a long stick. The purchase of long legged wolf hounds made the pursuit of coyotes more fashionable in later years.

It wasn't long before Carl had a small herd of cattle as he got great satisfaction working with animals. The spruce lumber for a round roofed barn 30 x 40 with a lean-to of 16 feet was logged at Strawberg's mill at Greenwater. The carpenter contracted $1,200 to build this barn. All the cement was mixed by hand using a garden hoe. Many barn dances were enjoyed in the big loft and one of the orchestras included the "Tomahito Five". Local dance talent was also used for dances. The house was moved in from another district and was formerly the local Temperance Hall, situated on the S.W. ¼ 26-44-11. After remodelling there was room for a dozen hired men upstairs and a crew of 12 to 14 men could easily sit at the long kitchen table. This grand house hosted many house parties and good times with plenty of dancing room for all who came.

Nearly fifteen years went by since Carl moved to the farm and built up his enterprise. A quiet life is sometimes lonely and one day Carl thought to himself, "Life must have more to it than working and living a quiet life. I must find myself a wife." Sometime previously he had met and fallen in love with Margret Cann who had two children, Ina Ann and Monty, by a previous marriage. They were married in 1[illegible] and together they made the farm life pleasant and brought into this world a daughter Carlene Sevilla and a son Carl Phillip Jr.

Carl was making a success of his mixed farming enterprise in the Pethum district. He felt he needed more pasture for his growing herd of cattle. He found a spot a place near Yarrow where hundreds of acres of virgin prairie grass lay between several small lakes. He decided this was the ideal place for his livestock and sold his Pethum farm in 1[illegible] to settle in the Yarrow district, where he farmed for 11 years until retirement, at the age of 71.

Carl Phillip Peters died on February 1[illegible] 1974 at the age of 82 and was laid to rest in a family plot cemetery, [illegible]. Those who knew him will remember him for his enthusiastic attitude towards his labours and friendliness to neighbours.

The Good Lord will surely bless our pioneers for their part in making this a better country for future generations.

School Days at Pethum - I remember Pethum School as my biggest educational institution in the early days and the school house was the scene of many grand affairs. Christmas concerts complete with a local Santa Claus, box-social dances and other festive events as the community found it necessary. I felt myself lucky to have a toboggan in the winter. Dan Mackenzie built it and I could sit down and it had sides and storage compartment in the front for lunch, etc. At a very early age I received a jackknife and stand more as a birthday present which I still possess and I used to ride my hired man horse to ride. I recall that in many instances this little pony trotted home ahead of me as she was prone to rolling sideways and leaving

on the ground. This same little shetland originally came from the Jesse Earl farm and remained my trail partner until I was too old and big to ride her. She proved to be exceptional in speed and endurance and was top runner at the Annual Foam Lake Fair for a good number of years.

Many other kids came to Botsum school like I did and still others had rides, pony carts or walked in the summer. An exciting incident took place one winter, when the Willis Mack family, Siegfred, Louise and Vernice came to school in a caboose. It seems that some boys had been smoking in the caboose during recess and after recess a fire had started somehow. Leo Watson had left the school room for an unheated privy and came back yelling at the top of his voice "FIRE - FIRE". Everyone ran out of the school and it took all the water in the school and snow from all directions to douse the flaming structure. A charred frame structure or runners, pulled by a suspicious pony, was all that the Macks had to go home that day.

Let's not forget the school picnics and field days of yesteryear. One doesn't see home made lemonade from real lemons and hand made ice cream any more.

Class at noon under the carragana bushes, nature hikes and the soft ball games in the school yard should not be forgotten. Do they still drown gophers in the spring like we used to. Even the girls could join in this exciting event - - the equipment was two or more kids, pails and poles for hauling water and of course, unfortunate gophers.

One teacher stands out in my memory, "Miss Lovdahl". I was in about grade two or three at that time. I thought her being very pretty and so did some other eligible gentlemen who were a lot older than I. The assemblies were of German, Ukrainian, Swedish, British, Scotch and other nationalities, but we all got along very well. Every one envied Keith Harrison with his high stepping saddle horse.

Reflection of the Past - The younger generation find it hard to comprehend or even realize the sacrifices and hardships endured by another generation almost all of whom, are buried now. The long days and weeks of row upon row of toil just to grow a few acres of grain. Could anyone think of stooking wheat today? Could we be brave enough to clear land by hand today? The women of those days had burdens that are not carried today. The garden, farm chores, cooking and washing played a major role in raising family which was all done without power devices. Let us not forget and let us appreciate the sacrifices and hardships endured by our grandparents and parents during these hard years. They were true pioneers and we are now enjoying the fruits of their labours.

Melvin Everett Dunn and Monte Elmo Dunn attended Botsum School. They are the sons of Mrs. Carl Peters.

Melvin has retired from the U.S. Air Force. His title is Lt. Col. of Strategic Air Command and he lives in Arkansas, Texas. Monte has a flying service and training school for future pilots at Wadena, Minnesota, U.S.A. where he now resides.

Submitted by Mrs. Elizabeth Petersen

Quite a few years have gone by when we came over to this promised land where it was supposed to be "milk and honey" flowing at all times. I have to admit it was healthy air, with no high chimneys or factories polluting the air. The soil, what a pleasure to let it ripple through your fingers and knowing what could be growing in the soil.

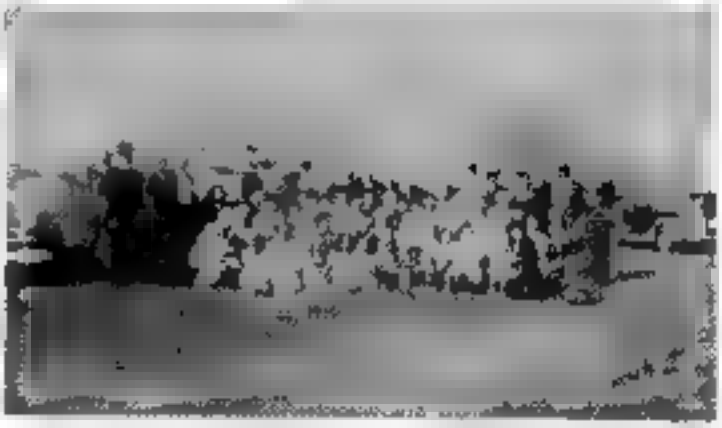
We were working at Carl Peters at that time. Father had gone over to this promised land a few months earlier. I followed with my five adopted children and one of our own just a few months later in the fall.

So the first year I planted a large garden, as I always did in the old country. My tomatoes all pruned and full of fruit. Nobody had ever seen anything like this. Everything grew like wild in that soil, then one evening Carl Peters came home from the bush camp and told me it would freeze that night or towards morning. So I gathered all the blankets that were available, etc. to cover everything. No doubt in my mind that the frost could not get thru that, what a disappointment that in spite of all my effort, everything was black. Can you imagine how many tears I shed that morning? After all, I had a large family to feed.

No stores for miles around and neither money to buy anything, but as the saying goes, "a poor person that doesn't know how to help herself". At least I found an old coffee grinder so I could grind enough wheat for a loaf of bread. For the necessary meat there were plenty of wild rabbits. It wasn't all "peaches and cream", but a good old cornstarch pudding still tastes good to me, a good pie-crust I haven't been able to make to this day.

Margaret, Hans and Andrew all attended Rotnum school. Later on we bought a ¼ section of land along the railroad track, used an old granary as our bedroom in which we had built bunkbeds, two on top of each other. During the summer we built a six-room house. There we lived until we retired into Saskatoon.

I still live here and look after my half acre of garden and enjoy every minute of it.



Meadow Bank Mother's Day Tea

Back row, Lloyd Nelson teacher, Judy Tweidt, Bradley Scramstad, Calvin Tweidt, Lowell Tweidt. Center row; Larry Tweidt, Darrell Tweidt, Debbie Scramstad, Kathy Tweidt, Cheryl Tweidt, Front row, Malcolm Tweidt, Caroline Tweidt, Ricky Tweidt, missing is Beverly Leitch.

Meadow Bank Kitchen

Skating on Meadow Bank

Meadow Bank Ladies Aid

## Mr. and Mrs. Metro Prybylski

Metro immigrated from the Ukraine to Canada with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Prybylski in the year 1897, at the age of ten years. They homesteaded in the Beaver Dale district of Sask. He was one of the first settlers there. While still quite a young lad, Mr. Prybylski worked in the fields along with his father, driving oxen.

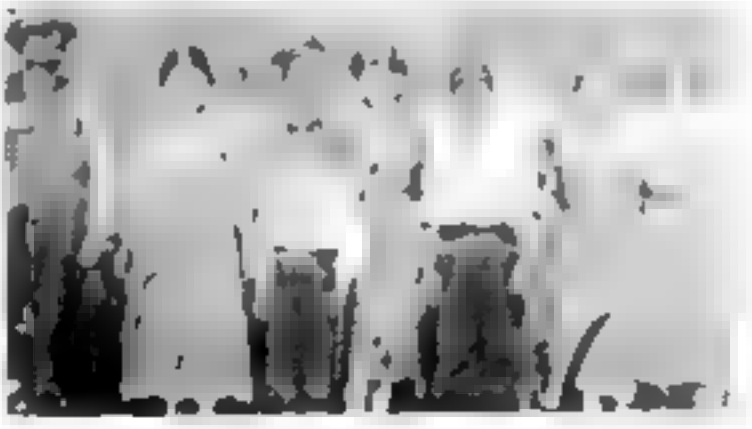
In 1910 Metro met Annie Danesowich, who had come to Canada from the Ukraine with some freinds, working for different people in the area. That fall they were married. Mr. Prybylski bought land in the Jedburgh district, built a log house and other building and took his bride to this home.

They were blessed with seven children, all born on the farm with father and a midwife in attendance.

Mr. Prybylski served as a trustee of the local school in this area for a number of years. In 1928 he sold the homestead and taking his family, moved to the Yorkton area. This was about the beginning of the dry years and the crop failures which forced another move in 1932.

That year he came to the Meadow Bank - Duck Creek district and purchased the J.C Miller farm. In spite of the hard times we always had lots to eat and lots to wear. Mother always saw that we that we had a big garden and cows to milk .

Five of the children attended Duck Creek School, Mary, Stella Steve, Peter and Dennis. We all enjoyed going to the dances at the Meadow Bank Hall with the Dynamite Five supplying the music. There were also ball games, picnics and other activities as well. Cristmas Concerts were held and Meadow Bank Hall was always filled to capacity, making it hard for Santa to get in with his bag of goodies.



Left;

The Prybylski Family

taken in 1938.

Annie; Mrs. Everett Thorell of Calgary, she passed away in 1964. Her daughter, Beverly, lives in Florida.

Fred and his wife Anne live in Kelvington. They have three girls, Marcella Schhultz, Francis Ekstrom and Darlene Gillings.

Mary, Mrs. Adrian Norberg, they live on the farm south of Wolverton The Norbergs have three children, Karen Brayshaw of Chilliwak, B.C. Chloe Linde of Calgary and son Peter, who with his wife Gail and three sons live in the same yard and do the farming.

Stella is Mrs. Mike Bohychuk and they live in Wadena. Their two

daughters are Barbara Zalah and Theresa Matheson of Regina.

Steve and his wife Shirley, with their two sons Gerald and Thomas live in Saskatoon.

Peter was the quiet, un married, muscial one of the Prybylski family, who worked in the mines in Eastern Canada. He passed away in Vancouver in 1970.

Dennis, the youngest, his wife Muriel and two children live in Calgary, were he works for city transit.

In 1960, Mr. Prybylski sold his farm to John Minken and moved to Wadena where they retired. They took a very active part in the work of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Metro passed away in March of 1976 and his dear wife followed him three weeks later, in April of that same year.

Respectfully submitted by Mrs. Mary Norberg.

Submitted by Steve Prybylski.

I attended Duck Creek School in the years 1932 to 1938.

I had a number of teachers during those years namely; Mona McKay, Eva Harrison, Martin Bordson and Amy Eskelson.

After leaving school, I farmed with my parents until July 1943. At which time I enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War II. And served in Canada and the United Kingdom with the R.C.A.F. until my discharge in May 1946.

After my discharge I continued to farm with my parents till 1953 when I retired from farming

Mr. and Mrs Oscar Rotnem

Oscar Rotnem homestead the S.E.¼ -18-36-12. His brothe Rudolph homesteaded the S.W.¼ -18-36-12. Rotnum School was later bulit in the S.W.corner of this quarter, on a piece of land donated by Mr. Rotnem.

Rudolph passed away in the great flu epidemic of 1919.

Oscar was married to Miss Pohlman and they had three children, Hagar, Clifford and Roy.

Father and sons farmed five quarters of land. In 1920, Oscar and family went to the United States and the Kidd Brothers rented the land until 1924 when Oscar returned to farm.

The Rotnem family lived here until 1936, when they sold the farm and moved to Kenora, Ontario.

## Sanford.

Submitted by Mildred Maachem (Sanford)

I was born in Wadena, Sask. in 1915. My mother passed away in 1921, we lived on the farm with my father until he passed away in 1929. I went to Willow Glen School and moved to Meadow Bank were I stayed with Mrs. Lancely and had a short time going to Duck Creek school. Then I moved to Aylsham Sask. and stayed with my Uncle and Aunt and attended the Dartmore school where I finished my school years. When I was old enough to go out working, I went out to work. I met my fiance and was married Oct.4th, 1939.

We lived on the farm in the Carrot River district, we had a son Melvin and a daughter Shirley. They are both married now. We have five grandchildren. My husband and I stayed on the farm until 1972 and went out to work for the Pioneer Grain Construction. My husband did carpenter work and I cooked for the men for seven years. We moved to Nipawin Sask. in 1976 and plan to retire here.

## Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schau.

Submitted by Ethel Partridge (Schau)
and Elsie Morton (Schau)

Mr. Schau was born in Nebraska, U.S.A. of German and Danish parents and came to Sask. at the age of two. Mother was born in Springside, Sask. Her parents were English.

Dad and Mother were farmers all their lives. They farmed at Theodore and Yorkton, before moving to the Duck Creek district in about 1930.

Ethel and Esther attended Duck Creek School for approximetely one year. As it was quite a distance to go, we were given a horse to ride, but we didn't make it on time as the horse would stop and eat grass and we couldn't make it go. I don't remember the teachers but we went to school with the Donalds, Harry Linden, Evelyn Sands, Margaret Cornish and Joyce McInnes.

Dad moved to the Rotnum district and bought the same land as the school was situated on. He was making sure we lived close to school this time. The first teacher we had at school was a Miss. Bryant. Other students at the time were the Hansons, Tweidts, Scramstads, Ostlies, Garrisons and Evans family.

[illegible] tells a tale of the Serenoted. He asked if he could use the [illegible] for a [illegible]. He was told yes, but he moved off the land and never got it. That was for a meeting of school board members [illegible] of which he did use a corner [illegible]. He [illegible] later and listened under the window. I don't know the verdict.

## Emily Sophia (Schau) Johnney

Emily Sophia Johnney was born April [illegible], 1[illegible] one of four children of Alfred and Esther Johnney of Springside. Assiniboia. It was here that she spent her [illegible] and where she married. She was married in marriage with [illegible] on [illegible] of [illegible]. They farmed there a [illegible] before settling on a farm East of [illegible]. It was here they shared the work and pleasures of [illegible], they moved into Estevan in [illegible] where they farmed [illegible] for [illegible] years before retiring to Estevan where they still live.

During the last years, since moving to Estevan, she has been an avid participator in the [illegible] of the Imperial Order, as well as a [illegible] sports fan. Emily and Ito were awarded a plaque in [illegible] as the [illegible] of the Year by the Estevan hockey team.

Emily and Ito have raised a strong and active family. Emily has survived by her husband Ito and all but one of their thirteen children. [illegible] five sons, Norman of Estevan, Saskatchewan, Walter [illegible] Alberta, George of Estevan, Saskatchewan, Alvera and Art of Lethbridge, Alberta, and seven daughters [illegible], Mrs. George Partridge, [illegible] Mrs. [illegible], Mrs. Trevor [illegible], Mrs. [illegible] of Estevan, Saskatchewan, Irene, Mrs. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] Mrs. [illegible]

The Dutch home had a 20-foot long table which remained that length all the time to accommodate the many travellers and guests who stopped there. As the years passed it was not surprising that many of the lonely young bachelor-homesteaders turned up there for one of those famous home-cooked meals - and of course there were those two pretty marriageable daughters there was a bit of humorous horse-play each time the Conlins and Johnny Thomas were there. Each were very fond of the outside crusts of bread as were others also, so there was great rivalry for them, whoever reached his chair first being the most likely to have an end crust for supper. Jim developed the trick of reaching over for the crust as he stood by the stove and would get it in his hard pocket. Johnny, not to be outdone, would go behind Jim and pick it out of his pocket as he went by.

Christina married John "Jack" Porter when 18 & her, Elbert Henry Porter, "Bert" as he became known, was born to them. Porter was killed in an accident and the young widow and baby returned to the parental home for a while. Eventually, carrying the I wear of it's many age were Henry Wallace I wear "Prince" horse and Frances [illegible] Lake [illegible] Lake's Point, Quebec. Elbert Forsyth, except for Marion Keating and long as Marion, came in a [illegible] When the used to deliver meat in Lee if there be a [illegible] Yes, Fowler in Sutton who are who to put more [illegible] my mother. Bert & Frances was born at our first road home. Yes, but Frances helped [illegible] rides [illegible] drives to Kensington to get to Stewart. [illegible], Elbert and Henry were born in the then new Kensington hospital. In fact, the "last" part of his name was after a [illegible] nurse who worked there & "Lee" for Charlie was born in Sutton during a bitterly cold spell in January. Minnie Wilson and Annie Grove had the 2 rides to get home in a [illegible] a modern box-like contraption, with a stove inside, built on sleighs.

There had been a blizzard between the time we went down to get them and our return the roads were [illegible] drifted in with hard packed snow making it very difficult for the team to draw up their load for the next lap. [illegible] helped the team when rode and stood and I had to get out and hold up the rig every time it tipped at a dangerous angle feared it's stove would tip over and ignite the snow covered floor.

My father, James Henry Lindsay was born in Toronto, Ontario on March 4, [illegible] of a [illegible] father James Donald [illegible] and a Spanish mother [illegible] Lindsay. He moved in the family home, the homestead here on Queen St. West in Toronto and Timothy Eaton's store & store went to reside in [illegible] at the age of [illegible] he homesteaded near Kensington in [illegible].

My father was a fine horseman. Dad always used to say he had a "seat on his pants and five [illegible] like a door" [illegible] John said recently, that one used to see all the cattle farmers of the district [illegible] This was a to set she passed on to several of her children horsemen "Tommy" [illegible] and Marion in particular. Her favourite horse was a tall [illegible] more grey & [illegible] a roan [illegible] "Dandy". She was a horsewoman-like [illegible] breed and as she strong

and fast, on one occasion having to run the 24 miles to Sedona to get the doctor to the Bell Norland home near Lexington.

Christina Schmidt

The Duck Creek home was the SE quarter of Section 26 and in the spring the creek would flood making it necessary for us to cross by raft to milk the cows if they should happen to be [illegible] on the other side. This would happen if the bridge went out during the day. One year Bob Gowan was helping clean grain and the fanning mill was across the creek in a log granary and we must have a half dozen trips across that day with the water rising higher each time. On the last trip, with two pails full of milk from the evening milking, we got caught in the now swiftly moving current. It swept us downstream until we snagged into a heavy growth of willows, the front of the current dangerously tipping the raft. Over went the pails of course, but I hung onto the willows and somehow, Bud poled [illegible] to where the current moderated and we got to the [illegible] water and [illegible] to safety. [illegible] or 11, I was 9 or 10 and neither one of us could swim a stroke.

[illegible] Jeanne and myself went to Duck Creek [illegible] and '27 and some part of '28 I by memory serves us right. [illegible] was a [illegible] for two years [illegible] Brenda Owen [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] there before going to the [illegible] opened Brand School.

[illegible] of our classmates were Tex and Percy Owens, Sam Lansely, Walter [illegible] and Phillip [illegible], Fred and [illegible], Ada and Irene and their brother [illegible], Ben and Elmer Pratt and the Berg children. There were [illegible] three girls and Ethel [illegible] started and had a bit of a hard time, [illegible], not so much as the girls.

We used to run across Jack Lennie's field to school, about 1½ miles or else around the road by Hunter's. Some time we'd go in there and play after school and then get a spank - ing when we got home because the way home seemed gathering and waiting.

Sometimes Tenney and I would decide on route to school and then we'd go alone to get the cows. She was afraid in a pre and had thought this may have a deterred role to her to see she was very frightened of them. There were two in the de a bit whenever one would come along there would rear back to a r in a semi circle and when her foot hit the ground she was running all the way home or until the rat turned off. Then we'd re rare e or steps. Sometimes it was quicker to go [illegible] meant finding a rock or stump or the post of a nearby barbed wire fence. Many a staple was pulled out that way.

Jack Draycott lived only a mile away across the field so after we transferred to [illegible] and this writer became fast friends and rival and art and [illegible] first place.

[illegible] was born in [illegible] to was a very [illegible] but [illegible] of the [illegible] were pretty good to [illegible] and [illegible] over ghosts out in [illegible] Barney MacNamee.

As we got older we used to go to the dances at [illegible] Pa'l. Admission was [illegible] later it was .25¢, [illegible] and [illegible] "Joe" provided the [illegible] the rears and he was very [illegible] and [illegible] and later [illegible] place where [illegible] played guitar and banjo. [illegible] and we'd dance every dance and [illegible] the small hours of the morning [illegible] o'clock. We might as well [illegible] then drove home with the [illegible] after day and went to school after [illegible] the two first hours in a stupor as at best [illegible] were real dances, the polkas we knew, eight-steps, square dances and schottisches, like o' others.

Tenney developed appendicitis in her [illegible] and had to be taken to Sedora Hosp. at, for the operation. It was [illegible] treatment and the roads were not [illegible] and had a car and bad day took time off from the mill were a trip for there but they got stuck in [illegible] mudhole. It took four hours to get her and during that time her appendix broke, and she got [illegible]

she could be operated and though she was a month in the hospital it iddn't drain properly causing serious health problems. She never did regain the energy and health of formerly and a fine little person and good athlete was lost when she died in Vancouver at the age of 28.

Ida married Wilfred Ewen and went to live in the Nobleville area. "Prince", John, Robert, Joseph, Marion, Charlie and Herselens all went to B.C. to live. Prince went to the School for the Deaf in Winnipeg and Saskatoon. He too excelled in sports, especially soft ball and hockey and was chosen for the young Canada (to Europe ) team in 1932/33, but because he was late in starting school and could only attend for 8 years the school would not give permission for him to go.

Submitted by Dennis Schmidt

My grandfather Henry Schmidt was born in Odessa, Russia in April 1863 of German parents, moved from there to Emerson, North Dakota in 1888.

My grandmother also of German parents and born in Odessa followed soon after to become his bride.

Their next move was to a homestead 20 miles north east (now Ryan) of Yorkton, N.W.T. where my Dad, John was born on December 23, 1892.

On November 4, 1902 Henry Schmidt, his wife and one son, John, two daughters, Carrie and Christie along with the Joseph Walmans and their two sons, Dan Warts and his father, Jacob came to take up homesteads along Duck Creek.

There was a Hudson Bay post about 14 miles north of Henry Schmidt's homestead on NE ¼ 26 36 and 3 established ranchers in the area, Ab McPherson north west at McPherson lake, Joseph Socold on the Pipestone Creek straight north, and Pete Prowse where Kelvington now stands.

The only source of provisions were Wadena and the Hudson Bay post, so enterprising Pete Prowse decided to do something about it and started to bring in supplies from Sheho to help out the new settlers.

When the train came through Wadena it brought with it land seekers and guides to take the potential homesteaders to their potential plots of land. And as the road went right through the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt to cross the creek, their home consequently became a favorite and popular stopping place. So much that there were times when Grandma had trouble stepping about her chores of making breakfast.

Dad recalls the day a hungry old Indian fellow riding an equally thin and hungry horse came to the door, and being unable to speak either German or English, motioned to his mouth for food. Grandma responded by giving him a loaf of bread

for which he smiled and rode away. But returned a few days later with a large chunk of moose meat.

The original log house (since burned down ) and log barn which still stands today were built of hewn logs by Tom Anderson and Chris Jenson in 1907.

Here is a quote from the Kelvington Radio in the late 40s, "The old original Henry Schmidt place will always hold a firm place in the hearts and memories of everyone who passed through its doors. The kindliness and warmth given to others under its roof is traditional of homesteaders days."

And an extract from a letter of a lady to her sister in Ontario describing her first visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt:

"We were still several miles from home with a tired team and caboose and four tired children, when at 8 O'clock at night we came to Mr. Schmidt's home. I had never met them before. They took us all in at once and gave us the best of everything they had in their home.

They had bought a new organ last fall and were anxious to hear me play it. Of course I did and we all enjoyed some very fine singing in both German and English.

When we went to retire we found we were given Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt's room for ourselves and ba[illegible]. [illegible] was dressed in German style in two large feather ti[illegible]s, [illegible] lan ets at all as we had always been used to. [illegible] er slept better than that night and rose rested and refreshed in [illegible].

We felt we had made new friends and hoped [illegible] see them again.".

In 1910 Dad took up the S[illegible] 2, 3 and set about establishing his own farm.

Now let's go to Liverpool, En[illegible]d [illegible]a e Mar[illegible] 21, 1913. The Empress of Ireland is lea[illegible] port for t[illegible] Canada. Among the many passengers are Mr. and [illegible]rs. John [illegible]aker with their two daughters, Alice and [illegible]ille. They docked in St. John in April, catch the train to Madena where they were met by son and brother, John who had preceded them by a year. They rented and moved into the Hardy house which was west of Grandads place.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cowan were homesteading W ½ 24 36 and were in need of a housekeeper. Word got around to Alice Hosker who accepted the job. Now that was just next door (about a mile) to the Schmidt home on one side and son, John's homestead on the other side. Well, John had to go to work his land and the shortest route was right through Cowans yard. So with one thing and another pretty soon, Alice Hosker was opening the gate for John Schmidt and this looked okay to him. They tied the knot on April 20, 1916, moved into their own house and she has been his housekeeper ever since and they are hail, hearty and HAPPY.

On February 17, 1917 the stork made its first visit to the Schmidt house with Irene, and followed through the next 15 years by me, Dennis on June 19, 1921, Gerald February 3, 1926 and Vernon on August 20, 1932.

The year 1937, Dad had put in 44 Saskatchewan winters and mother had endured 20. They agreed that milder climates were calling. So on November 10 we loaded up our 1929 Oldsmobile, tied a small sleeper trailer behind and headed west to the balmy Fraser Valley of British Columbia where Mom, Dad and Irene still live. Gerald lives at Gibsons, B. C., Vernon in Alliston, Ontario and I in the sunny Okanagan Valley of British Columbia.

My first teacher at school was Miss Mona McKay, a lovely tolerant lady. She was followed by Miss Eva Harrison who was not there long enough for me to pass judgement. I believe she was a[illegible]ing for Mona when she was sick. Next was Martin Nordsen and finally Miss Amy Eskelson, another lovely lady whom I learned well from.

Children attending during my school years included, Kenneth, Muriel, Alma, and Jean Donald, Teddy and Rosella Avery, Harry Linden, Bert and Phyllis Parish, Thelma Gowan, Dorothy & Lester Weaver, Mary, Hazel, Steve, Peter, Dennis Prybelski, Joyce and Ronald Hargreaves, Jimmy & Audrey Baker, Evelyn Smale, Tommy Moore, Mary's brother and of course, my sister Irene.

I do have a few school days memories such as - One morning while riding my pony through Parish's yard, I quietly got past their dog, Pal sleeping on the step. I dismounted to open the gate but on closing it again, the wire squeeked, awakening the dog which came madly barking and left four fang holes in my little backside, so I being too bashfull to tell Miss McKay, sat on one cheek all day.

Mr. Nordsen had his problems too, with an elastic band wielding students fired grains of wheat and buckshot at his bald pate while he busily wrote on the blackboard. He also found in his chair cushion a melting snowball and thumbtacks not to mention the black sooty drops on his head from melting snowballs in the rocket chimney under which he sat.

My first day of school is one to be remembered as I was put through an initiation by Joyce McGuinness who had a longing for long hair. During both recess periods and all noon hour there were two kids running at full speed around the school yard, me trying to stay ahead and Joyce trying to catch up.

That afternoon on reaching home I begged Mom to cut my hair short, she gave me a bowl cut, therefore allowing me more energy for school work.

I got my first strapping from Miss McKay for passing a note which [illegible] from the girl in front of me to the girl behind. No names please - they will know.

I reached grade eight in June 1937, returning one afternoon [illegible] to get I believe it was, to get pictures of the whole gang.

Submitted by Irene Schmidt

My grandfather and grandmother Schmidt, although of German ancestry, were born near Odessa, Russia and emigrated to North Dakota in the late 1800's along with my dad's parents, his brother and sisters. They later moved to Yorkton, Saskatchewan where my father was born in 1902. They farmed there until 1907 when they moved to Dealview where they traded their up a homestead, the east half of section 24. They farmed the west half of section 24 which was his homestead.

My mother, the former Ellen Parker, was born in Newport, Essex, England and came to Canada with her parents and sister, Adelia in [illegible]. Her father was already here, he returned to England when the war [illegible].

Mom and Dad were married [illegible] and lived on the farm where we continued to live [illegible] we moved to Burnaby, British Columbia. We lived at [illegible] and then moved to our present home in Burnaby [illegible].

My earliest recollection [illegible] taken there by my mother to [illegible] in 1923. As time went on I used to walk with Rowan children. In summertime we walked and in winter we went by horse and sleigh.

We had a long [illegible] Christmas and did not open [illegible] Christmas, we did not have to travel [illegible] weather.

I remember that there was a [illegible] the middle of the school yard in the early [illegible] on one side of the playground, the girls on the other side. Around the inside of the fence [illegible] were several plowed furrows to act as a fire guard in case of grass fires. Fortunately, we never had any.

When I was 10 years old my parents got me a red pony to ride to school. One morning in early winter there were icy patches on the road. As we passed over the culvert the grade was rather steep, the pony slipped and fell on her side on the grade with her feet pointing upward. I was riding bareback and so I was not tangled in the reins as she was lying on my left leg. However, as she frantically struggled to regain her feet I was able to get a little further out each time she raised herself up a little. Finally we both got back on our feet and continued on to school.

My teacher during my last school years was Ora McKay. She also taught my brother, Dennis who now lives near Penticton. My younger brother, Gerald also attended school for awhile before we left. He now lives at Kelowna, [illegible] Vernon, the youngest is in Allison, Ontario.

## Thomas Henry Seed

I, Thomas Henry Seed or Harry, as I was known, born in England in the County of Lancaster on June 26, 1908. My father was Richard Henry Seed, a farm laborer.

Mother, Clara Margaret (Smith) Seed. They were both English. I have one brother, William Archie Seed, born in England on February 6, 1910.

In the spring of 1911 we came to Canada to Wadena and north to Meadow Bank district. We lived NE ¼ Sec. 28 36 12 W2nd, and a few other farms around there.

Since we lived too far from school I did not start school until I was ten years old. I went to Orpington one year 1918, then changed to Duck Creek school from 1919 to 1922, then I quit school to help at home. I worked at home until 1929, then worked out for a year or two.

In 1931 I married Stella Osterlin, and we bought NW ¼ 15 -38-12 W2nd from C.N.R. and we lived there until 1942. Then sold it and moved to the town of Rose Valley.

We have a big garden on our lot and go fishing quite a lot, also visit our family. We have one girl and four boys so that kept us busy.

The Scramstad family - submitted by Olga Patrick

Nickolai Scramstad came to Canada from Norway in 1906 and settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba and worked as a carpenter. In 1909 Marie Flostrand came to Winnipeg from Norway to be married. They were married June 1, 1910 living on in Winnipeg for a time and oldest child, Sylvia, being born there.

Later, they took up a homestead north of Winnipeg at Mulvihill, Manitoba where their other five children were born.

Dad, not being a farmer, went back to his former occupation and began building elevators, working for the Searle Grain Company for many years. Whenever he wrote home, there was big "S" on his letterhead stationary of the Searle Grain, but we children all thought it stood for Scramstad.

We attended Nora school at Mulvihill, only two and one half miles from home.

Like all children, we got in a bit of trouble. We had been forbidden to play on the threshing machine separator, but in spite of it, Mac would continue to slide on the elevator of the machine, and one day fell and hurt his arm. . We laid him in the straw stack to rest, but it didn't help the pain, so we finally had to confess to mother who found he had a broken arm. He had to be taken into Winnipeg to the hospital, as that was the closest point for any medical problems.

In 1927 Dad came home and said he had a half section of land, at a place called Mendon in Saskatchewan, so we loaded all our household effects and livestock in two box cars and headed west arriving at Mendon on April 10. Mr. Martin Tweidt met us with the team and sleigh and took us to Oscar Soderquists to stay, as they found the roof had fallen in on what was to be our new home. Dad and Sig got busy and put a new roof on and added a kitchen and soon we were in our new home. Later an upstairs, a permanent kitchen and another bedroom was added.

Now we children had to start school at Rotnum. Our first year we all had mumps, one after the other, so missed a lot of school and had a long holiday.

Shortly after we came to Mendon, Our cousin, Sven Manson, came from Norway and stayed with us. The next year his brother, Arni came and called himself Arni Flostrand as he lived on the Flostrand farm in Norway. Arni married Mabel Lindstrom, who taught school at Rotnum.

Mr. & Mrs. T. Jorgenstad

The following year, their father came from Norway and his name was Hans Anderson. Brother John also arrived and later they all changed their surname to Flostrand. They built a house just across the main road and south of our home place, now owned by Carl Tweidt.

The cousins all worked with Dad on elevator work.

Arni now lives in Burnaby, B.C. and Sven lives in Kenoutin, Ontario. John lived at Warren, Manitoba and since passed away. Uncle Hans returned to Norway.

Dad stayed on elevator work for many years. After we children grew up and left home, mother was home alone much of the time, and it was one of these times while alone that the house caught fire and burned down. Dad, and Mac, who was also on elevator work, came home and built a new one-storey house. At that time Mac decided to stay home and do the farming.

Dad retired every fall, but when spring came he once again got itchy feet and came out of retirement, but finally after a few years of this, he stayed home doing carpenter work in the local areas.

Mother and Dad travelled quite a lot in their later years, twice to Norway and winters usually at the East or West coast.

In 1960 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and they could also look back on 33 years spent in the Rothsay district. Mother served on the local school board for some years and both Mother and Dad instrumental in organising the local Evangelical Free Church. They lived on the farm until Dad passed away in 1961 and Mother in 1962.

Sylvia finished her schooling in Manitoba so went to Snow's School in Regina to take up dressmaking, millinery and tailoring. She had her first shop in Wadena in the Kingland home. Myrtle Torgerson and myself stayed with her and went to school there.

Later Sylvia moved her shop to Kelvington, working there for some time until she married Bernard Suttle of Wilkie, Saskatchewan. They farmed at Wilkie for a few years, then moved to Thunder Bay, Ontario where they still live. Sylvia worked as nurses aide in a nursing home there for some years, but now they are both retired. They have one son, Barry who is married with two children and they live nearby. Bernard and Sylvia spend a lot of time at the lake in summer, also manage to come back to Meadow district quite often to check up on the rest of the family.

Sigfred went to Rothsay School for a short while, then on leaving, went with Dad on elevator work for awhile. In 19?? he married Ethel Harrison and soon after they moved to Sunny Glen, near Melville where he bought grain for some years. During the war he moved to Montreal, where Sig was a machinist instructor for Canadian Propellros. They came back to farm in 19??.

They had four children who all attended Rothsay School. Carol became a nurse and lives in Moose Jaw, she is married to Murray Johnstone.

Leslie Mae is a laboratory technician, working in the hospital at Hanna, Alberta. She is married to David Atkinson.

Penny lives at Lacombe, Alberta and is a computer and field crops technologist with Alberta Agriculture.

Wayne worked for Pool for many years, then moved to Salmon Arm, B.C. where he works for B.C. Tel. He is married to Gertrude Schellenberg and has two children, Douglas and Meryl. Sig passed away in 1976 and Ethel now lives in Wadena.

Clara went to Rothsay School, then took her high school in Wadena. Clara, Ethel and Ethel Harrison did light housekeeping for a couple of years. None of us knew how to cook, but it wasn't too important as we went home every weekend, and the mothers packed food for a week or two. My Friday rations were cold and Ethel would comment on my lunch pail, giving it a fancy name "Weekend-a-Rode". Ethel has the recipe on request!

Clara then moved to Kelvington where she did hairdressing, then married Fred Patrick. They have three children, Gerald, Patricia and Roy.

miles east of Rotnum School site.

hitting the local night spots

in real estate.

merly of Hendon.

While living there, Alma was always busy, driving milk truck, dental assiestant, she liked to try something new! After spending some years in Terrace where both their children were born, they moved to Surrey B.C. Where Alma operated the Cedar Grove Motel, while Howard worked in the office of B.C. highways at Cloverdale.

In 1977 they sold their Motel and retired to Kamloops, where their son Terry lives. He is married, has two children and is an accomplished musician, operating a music store in Swahali Centre in the city of Kamloops. Daughter Laurie, also an accomplished Musician and teacher. She is married and lives in Vancouver, where she still has a position pertaining to Education, with B.C. Govt.

Submitted by Alma Toftager (Scramstad)

My first teacher was Miss Burnet, the year 1927 I think. Others were Miss Bryant, Mr. Spencer, Miss Dalshag, Miss Lindstrom and Mr. Leitch. The teachers in my mind as a child were the models of behavior, dress, language and knowledge for the district.

I have met several of those teachers in recent years and was surprised to find Miss. Bryant is such a small lady. She seemed so much bigger to me when I was in the lower grades. She is a sweet lady still.

When Miss. Lindstrom was teaching, it made me feel quite important to carry her notes to my cousin, whom she later married and to bring his notes to her.

While she boarded at Garrison's, I often had a ride to school with her. In the winter time Leslie and I would scoop up snow and make snowballs and she would throw them at Rodney the horse to get a bit more speed.

We enjoyed softball, football, spelling and geography bees. It seemed as if we practised for weeks for the Christmas program. It was the highlight of the year.

During History class, I remember making sets of eyes on a narrow strip of paper, cutting slits by the ears of King Henry VII in my book. After removing the original eyes in the picture, I inserted the strip, and by sliding it back and forth, produced comical expressions to the face. I think Julius Caesar and others got the same treatment. It made history more interesting.

Leaving out the next forty or more years, we are living in Kamloops, "trying to retire". Howard and I have two grown and married children and two grandchildren. (Isn't it amazing how smart and good grandchildren are?) We attend an active church, have many friends and are thankful for good health, we are enjoying life.

Submitted by Sylvia Suttle (Scramstad).

I have been away from the Rotnam- Hendon district for fort - five years, but I can still remember the good neighbors. The Garrison's, Mahlum's, Twiedt's, Hanson's, Carlson's, Ostlie's and many, many more. Our mother was on the school board, and I remember Mr. Garrison and Mr. Mahlum being on the board at the same time- who else I cannot recall.

I did not attend Rotnam School, as I had finished school by the time we moved from Mulvihill Man., where my father had homesteaded.

Both my parents had originally come from Norway and Dad being a carpenter by trade, worked for the Searle Grain for many years. I can still remember the Sec. we lived on, Sec.14-36-13, three and one half miles east of Hendon to be exact.

Bernard and I are now retired here in Thunder Bay.

The Scramstad Family.

Submitted by Mabel MacPherson (Scramstad)

I began Rotnam School in Grade IV after coming from Man. I do recall some of the teachers but in what order, there were there was Miss Spencer. I also recall school with Lorna Wass, Lil Jorgerson, Mabel Garrison, Bernard Garrison and Mildred .

Don and I are retired here in Waterloo Ont. and enjoy the summer days on our house boat.

Submitted by Mabel Scramstad (Garrison).

Mr. and Mrs. Sig Scramstad.

I was born and raised in the Rotnam district on the N.E ¼24-36-13. I started school in 1924 at the age of five, probably to keep my brother Leslie company. My first teacher was Elsie Grace of Gadena.

I must have had a series of very good teachers for in June 1930 I wrote my Departmental exams for grade eight at the Victoria Park School which had been declared a centre.

I can recall after writing exams all day, I quite often had to walk home the four miles, as Dad was busy in the fields and our only mode of transportation was the horse and buggy.

I think I must have been a real tomboy and the bane of my teachers life. For I can recall quite a few times having to be punished for fighting, Sammy Evans and I always seemed to want to sweep our boots off at the same time!

Two of the annual events for which I have fond memories are the Christmas Concert and the end of the year school picnic, I can still taste the good homemade ice cream, made with lots of rich cream and eggs and turned for hours by hand in Scramstad's wooden ice cream freezer.

Some of my classmates were Sylvia Harrison, Selma Soderquist, Dorothy Evans and Mabel Scramstad. (Now a sister-in-law).

I was married in 1937 to Sig Scramstad and our first home was at Sunny Glen Sask., where he bought grain, until 1942. When we moved to Montreal, Que., where he was a machinist. In 1944 we moved back and lived at Kendon, were we took over my father's farm and had expanded our operations, until Sig passed away in 1976.

I have rented the farm and am presently living in the town of Wadena.

Our four children are scattered, Wayne in Salmon Arm B.C. Carole, in Moose Jaw and two youngest daughters in Alberta.

Submitted by Wayne Scramstad.

I was born to proud parents Sig and Mabel Scramstad, at Unity, Sask. Dad was a grain buyer for the Searle Grain Co., at nearby Sunny Glen.

My sister, Carole followed me by two years and then, in 1942 when I was three years old, we moved to Montreal, where Dad was a machinist for Canadian Propellors. While in Montreal, Carole and I had many French playmates, so by the time we returned to the Rotnum district in 1944 we could both speak French fluently.

Dad began farming on my grandfather Garrison's farm and in time two more sisters arrived, Leslie and Debbie.

Carole and I were the caretakers of Rotnum School for some time and ha ling water, lighting fires and sweeping floors. I remember one incident when we were on our way to school with the horse and tobaggan and our cream can of water. The bottom came out of the tobaggan, out went Carole and the cream can. No one was hurt and I often think that the caretaking job was good experience for us.

For the most part my days in Rotnum were very pleasant. I remember the many social events, hallowe'en parties, box socials and Christmas Concerts. Sports were a very important part of our school days. Two of my teachers Mr. McGregnera and Mr. Harcourt, both had us very much involved in track and field and soft ball. Frank would load us up in the back of his half ton INTERNATIONAL truck and take us to play ball at Duck Creek School. We used to win all those games!!! Our

Field meets were held at Meadow Bank and Wadena.

After leaving high school in Wadena, I married Gerturde Schiltenhere of Kindersley, I'm working for Sask. Tel. We now have two children Douglas are 13, and Cheryl are 12 years.

We moved here to Salmon Arm in the sunny Okanagan, in 1974 and am presently employed with B.C. Tel.

Submitted by Carole Johnstone (Bremstad).

My memory is undoubtedly not as sharp as that of my grandfather Jay Garrison, There are however, a few scattered recollections about Rothsay School days,

Mr. Wilfred Harcourt is the first teacher that I can recall. He remains in my mind as the one who suggested to my parents that I needed an eye examination, probably frustrated by my wrong answers, he was certain there was either a mental handicap or a visual handicap, and chose to prove the later possibility. Getting glasses, and moving from a world of fuzziness into a world of distinct shapes and colors was a great event of my primary grades. And to Mr. Harcourt's delight I actually made some progress in school work.

The years following are a medley of memories, school picnics with homemade ice cream, Christmas concerts, recesses and noon hours spent "acting" in our Caragana hedge settings, toboggan and cutter rides to school and making hot chocolate for dinner, using "real cream".

Then in 1942 I started a diary and with its help recall a very confusing year. Miss Marion Allen was hired as supervisory teacher until Oct. 31st. For the month of November, Mrs. A. Avery taught us and following her departure the students worked at home with the aid of correspondence courses. When Rothsay finally did hire a teacher, Mr. Frank McGrenera on Jan. 7th, 1943 our education was back on the right trail, for in my diary notation on Jan. 8th, I read "Dear D. The new teacher threatened to strap us today!

Besides the confusion, 1942-43 also gave us a lot of fun. That was the year the entire school took part in printing a newspaper and learned new skills many of us have probably never forgotten.

Another aspect od Mr. McGrenera's term was his stress on neatness and cleanliness. I especially recall his emphasis on "walking into a clean kitchen, and seeing a crisp, starched tablecloth on the kitchen table". Even though the advice isn't always implemented in later years. The impression remains on my mind.

When Mr. McGrenera left in June of 1943, our school term with a new teacher Mrs. Mary Gutek began. By this time our numbers had dwindled and there remained only three grade eight students. Always wanting her students to do "their best", Mrs. Gutek offered us $1.50 cash for each mark of 100% in our June 1944 exams. I'm not sure how

much money she had to spend, but her idea really motivated us.

As this term ended we undoubtedly were very anxious to leave Rotnum School and get on with something "bigger". Only now when we have but memories to feed on, do we realise that Rotnum <u>Was</u> the "biggest" and "best".

Submitted by Leslie Atkinson (Scramstad).

I was the third child born to Sig and Mabel Scramstad the year after they left Montreal to take up farming in the Rotnum district. My first home was on the N.E ¼ 24- 3[illegible]-[illegible], later moving to the N.W.¼ 23- 3 -[illegible]. My first teacher was Wilf Harcourt from Leroy, Sask. And in my final year was Don Leitch. Frank Mourenere and Mary Gutek were in between. My classmates were Marie Tweidt, Ray Gutek and Arlene Scha..

Some of my most vivid memories of school days was my intense dislike of the multiplication tables and I always seemed to manage to miss school on the day we were to be sent to the board to write them out.

I liked to drive the horse and cutter and race around corners, sometimes upsetting the whole thing, was great fun, when all went well. I often wonder if Calvin remembers wearing his bib overalls to school, being of slight build, was a prime target for Robert and Valery to pick up and hang him by the straps of his overalls on the coat hooks in the cloakroom.

Like my brother and sister before me, I had a stint at being caretaker. My first pay cheque was a real thrill! After graduation from Wadena High, I went on to University in Regina. I graduated as a Hospital Laboratory Technologist in 1[illegible]6.

Following graduation, I worked in Wadena, and Stanton Yellowknife N.W.T. I then took a year to return to University in Saskatoon, Next on to St. Peters Hospital in Melville, followed by a two year stint in the far northern port of Frobisher Bay. On my return I took a position at the University Hospital in Saskatoon. Once more I thought it was time for a change, and was the successful applicant at the General Hospital in Lacombe Alta.

It would seem I have become a permanent resident here, as I was married in April 19[illegible]8 to a native son of Clareshole, David Atkinson.

Submitted by Debbie Scramstad.

I was the youngest of four children, two sisters and one brother, born to Sig and Mabel Scramstad. By the time I was ready to start school, my older sister Leslie was being bussed to Wadena for her high school. I never minded walking to school by myself, for I recall what fun it was to stop and put out food for the rabbits. Not that I could

get near them, but if I didn't happen to like the menu for the day I could always leave bits of it in the ditch along the way, hoping the rabbits would find it.

Don Leitch was my first teacher for the first three years and my most vivid recollection was singing solo "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer". Attired in a brand new red velvet dress, needless to say singing did not become my career.

In 1964, by the time I was ready to enter grade V, a decision had been made to close Rotnum school and bus the children to Wadena. Lloyd Nelson of Rendon was my last teacher. Larry Tweidt was a classmate of mine through public and high school.

I graduated from High School in 1971 and after taking a year at University in Saskatoon, I got the urge to travel. In 1972-73 I spent seven months travelling through Europe, the last three months being spent in Norway working, studying the language and contacting my dads relatives.

Again in 1973-74 I spent six months in New Zealand and Australia and then decided it was time to complete my education. In 1977 I graduated from the University in Saskatoon in Land Use and Environmental Studies. That winter I accepted a temporary position in Lethbridge Alta. at the Research Station and later with Alberta Fish and Wildlife in Red Deer. I then went on to a permanent position with Alberta Agriculture in Lacombe Alta. as Computor and Field Crops Technologist, where I am presently employed.

Submitted by Marcella Hokanson (Scrumstad).

My memories of Rotnum School days get a bit hazy, but I do remember my teachers and classmates for the most part.

In grade I Mr. Marcourt was my teacher with Robert Ladubec and Ellery Leepart my classmates. Then came Frank Mcorenera, Mrs Gutek Don Leitch and for a few months Marion Allen did her duty in helping keep our school open for want of a teacher.

I can remember the cold winter days when we drove to school with the horse and toboggan, using hot bricks to keep us warm.

Another memory is of everyone drinking water from a pail and all using the same dipper. All went well and no thought of germs, until we found a dead mouse in the water supply.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Smith.

Wayne and Gladys Smith came to the district from Cranach Sask. in April 1974. They lived on the N.E.¼ II. In the summer of 1974 they moved to the Wolverton district. Had a family of three sons, Burton and Lawerance, Gerald who passed away when a baby. Two daughters, Vera and Carlene.

They retired in Wadena. Wayne passed away. And later Gladys married Mr. George Campell. After George passed away Gladys moved to Saskatoon. She now has moved to Winnipeg were she has retired.

Burton and Lawerance both went to school at Duck Creek. They went from April 1934 till the end of June.

Burton was in the American Air Force. In the second World War he served from 1939 to 1945, He made the Services his lifes career and now lives in Florida.

Lawrence was in the Canadian Army Serving over seas in the second World War.

Lawrence now lives in Winnipeg, has a family of three.

Mr. and Mrs. Severt Sunde.

Evelyn was the only daughter of Severt and Ines Sunde. They had moved into the Rotnum area after coming from south western Saskatchewan.

They lived for a time with Ines's mother, Mrs. Distad, and farmed the N.E.¼ 8-36-12, the land now owned by Ken Leitch.

Mrs. Distad, a widow, later married A.F.Andereon, owner of the local store in Hendon. Evelyn attended Duck Creek as well as Rotnum Schools.

Her cousin, Stewart Whipple attended Duck Creek for a time in the 1928-29 term.

Mr. & Mrs. Sven Torgerson

Sven Torgerson was born at St. Peters, Nicolet County, Minnesota while Petrina Martinson was born at Boda, Norway, coming to Landa, North Dakota with her mother, brothers and sisters in 1896, at the age of twelve years.

After living in the U.S.A. for some time after their marriage, Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson moved to Piapot, Saskatchewan. In 1930 they moved from there with their family to the Hendon - Rotnum area.

Mr.& Mrs. Torgerson

All of their daughters attended Rotnum School, the boys being older had received their schooling in Piapot.

Mrs. Torgerson was a busy mother - her children speak of seeing her churning butter using her foot to operate the churn while knitting socks and doing a bit of reading on the side. During her stay in the Rotnum district she took on the janitor duties for the school and when she had scrubbed the floor you knew it had been scrubbed!

Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson are both remembered among the neighbors for their thoughtfulness and gave a helping hand to anyone in need. Mrs. Torgerson was midwife for many of the babies born in this area.

Tom Whitehead, who lived on the next farm to Sven, speaks of the spring when seeding was at hand, and he was laid up with his back. Sven was on the scene without hesitation, offering to do his seeding.

Many good social gatherings were in the Torgerson home and their two younger daughters, Lillian and Frances were great little singers and people loved to hear them sing. A great favorite of that time was "Wreck of the old 97".

Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson were able to celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary together, with their family and friends.

Mrs. Torgerson passed away in Lanigan hospital at age 90, and Sven later at a Nursing home in Saskatoon, age 91.

Lillian Coen (Torgerson)

I was the fifth child born to Mr. & Mrs. Sven Torgerson while they were living at Piapot. In all we were a family of seven children, brothers Hilbert of Lintlaw, Percy of Piapot, Sidney of Calgary and sisters, Myrtle Spencer of Surrey, B.C., Frances Leitch of Leroy and Jeanette Hamilton of Quesnel, B.C.

I married Siegfried Coen of Lanigan in July 1941. He had moved to Lanigan in 1939 and being a pharmacist, had purchased a drugstore which we operated until December of 1978. We have purchased a house in Lanigan and are now enjoying our retirement.

We have a family of two children. Garth and his wife, Irene have two daughters, Kendra and Amanda and they live in Saskatoon. Daughter Gail and her husband, Garry Kruska have one daughter, Andrea and live in Kinsella, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Tweidt,
submitted by Della Tweidt

In the year of nineteen twenty-four and the month of October, the Martin Tweidt family piled into the already packed (in and outside) Model T Ford, all nine of us, to the amazement and concern of our good friends and neighbors, to leave our North Dakota farm home and the land of our birth and childhood of us children, for a journey of adventure and a new abode. At the same time we were a sober bunch that morning, leaving the old home and all our friends and school mates.

This journey took us five days, driving east and west yet heading for the north. There being no definite main roads, we depended on directions given at stops. Entering Dawson at North Dawson, we drove up to Stevens for the first night's stop-over, the second night to Rhodes, then Balcarres, the third night [illegible] to Whitewood. Whitewood's alley down the then steep hills was an adventure in itself. Almost too much so, as we came down rather swiftly on the wooden bridge, then going up the other side. We decided to get out at one point and placed stones against the hind wheels for a stop, before going on. We arrived at the top with relief. We had packed our food and replenished it along the way. The [illegible] were loaded, road, [illegible] required hanging on to the car [illegible] but it was [illegible] or at odd times during the [illegible] weather was in our favor and we passed through [illegible] Dawson's [illegible] We [illegible] ourselves at Yorkton at the [illegible] hotel. The next morning we looked out with surprise at the large [illegible] of water. Could this be the Arctic Ocean? (to us prairie born children)

[illegible] we drove on to Melville and Lemberg. After a short [illegible] there, we were [illegible] and said we were at the [illegible] farm where a crowd was gathered. After getting directions to Hendon. We [illegible] to the [illegible] at last we turned, and where we were [illegible] appeared [illegible] at five [illegible], we arrived at the [illegible] far, [illegible] ed. [illegible] small house was downstairs and smaller upstairs, yet we found [illegible] sleeping on the floor at first for some of us, though the [illegible] was bare [illegible] furnished.

The [illegible] was [illegible], [illegible] and [illegible] Carl Anger were [illegible] to offer [illegible] their friends [illegible] and [illegible], which they and others gave to us.

[illegible] and was [illegible] continued, as we were a little [illegible] at somewhat [illegible] with most of our clothes did not [illegible] [illegible] The following fall I returned to Hendon to help Mother [illegible] household of growing boys. Sister Alice, in the meantime, had married and they [illegible] and [illegible] were [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] during the years there were [illegible] in our family, [illegible] were [illegible] and [illegible] were [illegible] out in the near neighborhood [illegible] [illegible] rented [illegible] and [illegible] while, as [illegible] were [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] rented the [illegible] old until [illegible] moved there. I returned to the Hendon area almost [illegible] to [illegible] with [illegible] ever expanding family units.

There [illegible] progress and improvement noted on each visit [illegible] the area and [illegible] areas with the rest of the country. The roads now paid for [illegible] are we [illegible] what we first drove over coming up in that faithful old Model T Ford!

## Mabel Henrietta Dressler (Tweidt)

I came from Plaza, North Dakota in October 1924 with my parents, five brothers and a sister. Then in 192? brother, Donald Henry was born. We moved onto a farm in the Rotnum district, about 3½ miles east of the Rotnum School. I attended Rotnum school for a few years and the teachers were Miss Brice, Henry Lowen and Percy Heffren.

Our neighbors were a very friendly and grand people like the Hansons, Carlsons, Rotners, Harrisons, Soderquists, Wacks and many others.

I recall it was a cold winter, the temperatures going down to 50 or more below zero. Our father had told us there were many prairie chickens and partridges. They were so tame you could just go out and hit them on the head, so of course Carl, Alfred and I got on our skis, then across the snow to get some for dinner. We had been told that they were good to eat, however, we found out that it wasn't quite that easy.

The mail came in to Hendon by train about three days a week, and the post office was in the Arvid Anderson's store. That was about the only place of business in Hendon then.

I used to go for the mail by horseback on a white horse called Lady. At times, I would also ride a pure, dappled horse and he was called Jack. The young people of our family also got around [illegible] an ordinary toboggan pulled by one horse. I also recall having a friend from Hendon driving out to our farm by dog sled and pulled by five dogs.

In 1928 I married a dashing school teacher, by the name of Rudy Dressler, who came to teach at Victoria Park School near Hendon. That location now is just a big grain field. We lived at Victoria Park for a year and then moved to Churchbridge, Saskatchewan, Rudy's home district.

Submitted by Alfred J. Tweidt

I immigrated, with my parents, from Plaza, North Dakota, U.S.A. arriving in the Hendon area in October 1924.

My father was a farmer by occupation and he purchased a farm in the Rotnum School District. The farmstead location was NE ¼ Sec. 12, Twsp. 36, Range 13, W.2nd M.

Martin and Maria Tweidt, both of Norwegian descent, had eight children living and all but one were with them when they came to Canada. Della, Carl, Mabel, Alfred, Melvin, Fannie, Delmer were the children who immigrated. Donald was born on the farm in the Rotnum District.

I began in the fourth grade at Rotnum, and if my memory serves me right, there were three girls in this grade, Mary and Gwen Evans and Magna Carlson. As I recall, the school enrolment included Ruth, Sylvia and Leonard Harrison, Hans and Linnea Larson, Roy and Clifford Rotnum, John, Mary and Gwen Evans, Magna Carlson, Leslie Harrison, Mabel, Melvin and Alfred Tweidt. The teacher was Miss Elsie Brice.

I completed my Eighth grade 1928-29. The teacher then was Charlie Spencer. Those who wrote their exams in that year were: Olga and Magnus Scramstad, Mary and Gwen Evans, Leslie Garrison and myself.

My most vivid memories of my school days were the years it was my job to have the old stove going so that the school was warmed up for the arrival of the other students. It meant getting up early in the mornings and walking 1½ miles in weather sometimes 35 degrees below zero.

After completing my school years, I farmed in the Rotnum district for a number of years. In 1951 I married Dorothy Hardy and moved to Wadena, Saskatchewan where I was in business for 27 years until I retired in 1978. My wife and I still reside in Wadena.

Bennie Andrew Tweidt

I, Bennie Andrew Tweidt was born to Martin Daniel and Inger Marie Tweidt, in May 25, 1920 at Plaza, North Dakota, U.S.A

In the fall of 1924 at the age of 4½ years, together with my parents, two sisters, Della, Mabel and four brothers, Carl, Alfred, Melvin and Selmer set out in a 1917 Ford touring car for our new home at Pendon, Saskatchewan, the NE¼ Sec. 12 tsp.36 range 13 W2 M. Farming and carpenter work being my father's profession.

Both my parents were born and raised in Norway, having emigrated to the United States in the early 1900's. My mother was the former Inger Marie Urdahl.

In the spring of 1926 I commenced school at Rotnum school [illegible]. During my school years I had several teachers, Miss Barnett, Miss Bryant, Mrs. Mack, Charlie Spencer, Miss M. Lindstrom, Miss E. Dalsheng and D.E. Leitch.

My classmates at Rotnum were Johnand Edith Hanson, Alma Scramstad and for a short while Gladia Amos.

After quitting school in 1936, I worked on the farm for Carl Hanson during the summer months and for one year and a half at the Post Office at Muddle Lake as assistant Postmaster.

For a number of years while attending school I had the job as fireman at the school. I remember many cold and stormy, dark winter mornings having to walk the distance of approximately one and a half miles to school and coax a wood burning wood stove into heating an uninsulated building to a resemblance of warmth before the pupils arrived.

On cold blizzard, days, the building just would not warm up and then it was the rule of the day to stay fully clothed in outer wear for most of the day. Our feet were constantly cold. We always had to keep our lunch buckets stacked under and around the stove to keep from freezing.

In those days which were the years of the "dirty thirties" my wages were ten cents a day (and how I froze for those few cents a day). I was allowed one box of matches per winter or season of

firing. I remember one year running short of matches, so put in requisition for an extra box. (the cost of a box of matches at that time was ten cents per box). I was sorely reprimanded for using so many matches! How little they understood how stubborn that old wood stove could be on windy cold days.

In the spring of 1942 I enlisted in the United States Navy. After my basic training at San Diego, California, I spent the remaining war years serving abroad a U.S. Destroyer in the South Pacific, Aleutian Islands, Philippines, Malasia and Indonesia areas.

After my discharge from the Navy in the winter of 1945, I purchased the farm I now live on.

In the month of June, 1946 I married Hertha Malkenthin of Middle Lake, Saskatchewan, having met her before the war, while working at the Post Office there.

We raised three children, two daughters and one son. Donna, Mrs. Robert McEwen of Quill Lake, Lowell, who is presently in Kuala Limpur, Malasia with Imperial Oil and our youngest, Kathlyn is a dental assistant at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

For the past ten years I have been working as office clerk and Insurance Salesman with A.J. Tweidt Agencies and presently with the new agents, Wadena Agencies Ltd.

We still live on the farm which we have rented to one of our nephews.

Donna McEwen (Tweidt)

I am the eldest daughter of Ben & Hertha Tweidt and was raised very close to Rotnum School on SE ¼ of Sec 13, Twp. 36 Rge 13.

Dad was of Norwegian descent ,and came from North Dakota as a boy in 1924. Mom was of German descent, her family name being Molkenthin, and was born and raised at Middle Lake.

I remember Mrs. Frank Gutek as my first teacher and then Don Leitch.

We had the janitor duties for a few years and I also remember a few of the activities taking place at Rotnum. We always had a Bingo and Turkey shoot in November, and so when the Lutefish supper came around in Hendon, we school children would go ther and sell tickets on the coming turkey shoot. From the money taken in, each pupil would be given a certain amount to order a Christmas gift for themselves, which they would then receive the night of the concert. It seemed as though most of the month of December was spent practising for the concert.

We girls used to make playhouses in the carragana hedge west of the school and in summer spent most of our recesses and noon hours playing there.

There was an empty dugout east of the barn on the Schau property and boys and girls together would play cowboy and Indians from there.

e older ,irls always seemed to help the younger ones and we spent part of the time on warm June days, studying outside in the [illegible], getting ready for our June exams.

[illegible] e really exciting times was when we were to have a ball game a[illegible] another r[illegible] school.

[illegible] later married a farm boy, Robert McEwen of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan. [illegible] e has two children.

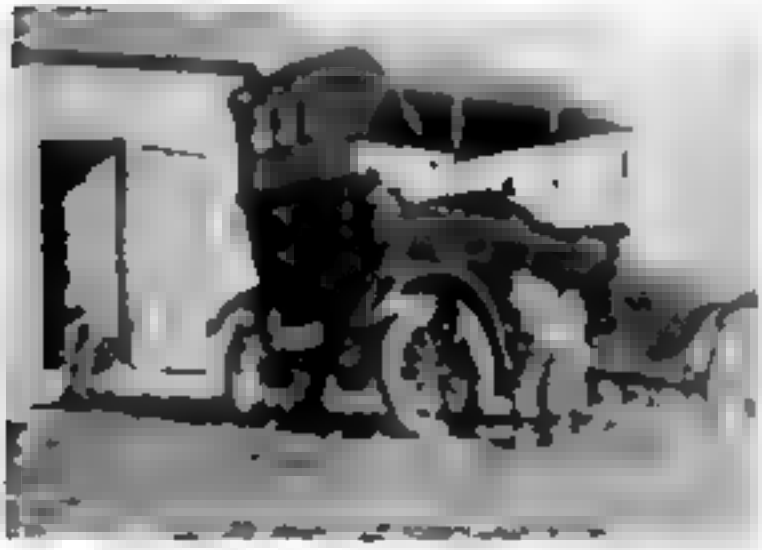
Carl Tweidt

[illegible] father, and he [illegible] emigrated from Orwell to the U.S.A. [illegible] near [illegible], after working on farms a few years came for a [illegible] part [illegible] and homesteaded near Plaza, North Dakota [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] from Orwell, that year, as they were [illegible] and pioneered together and raised a family.

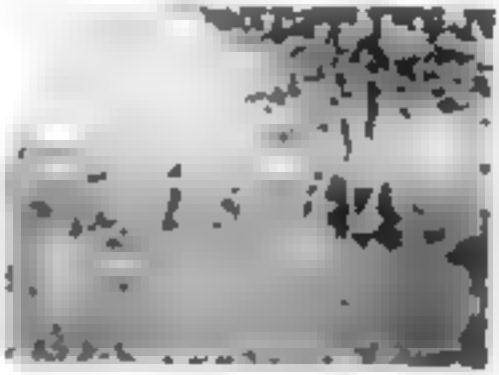
[illegible] farm [illegible] as a result as a farmer and some of the other [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] as well as a few [illegible] to North Dakota some years earlier.

[illegible] some of [illegible] had decided to look for greener pastures [illegible] [illegible], as a rule, people went to see [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and after there was land that was [illegible], which at least meant being close to school.

[illegible] [illegible] fall, we piled in to the old Model T tour[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible]. Much as we hated to leave [illegible], it was a real adventure for all of us.



[illegible] [illegible] car



The last tree is cut
[illegible] land is cleared

[illegible] were [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] at that time, so we were a [illegible] and [illegible] all, got there on the day of [illegible].

We had beautiful sunshine weather here that fall, which helped us to get adjusted to our new surroundings. Our house had one room downstairs and one upstairs which served as the bedroom and being partially furnished there was one bed. We made some beds from small poplar poles and straw mattresses to be used for awhile. Food was plentiful so there was no reason to freeze. Less we got lazy. Most of our bedding was shipped in trunks, but did not arrive until much before Christmas. Our neighbors were always read, to help with things that we needed.

My oldest sister and I had finished our public school that spring, so I did not go to school at Lothair, but enjoyed many Christmas concerts and school parties there. Also, many of the school marms were an added attraction!

Water was plentiful in all the sloughs those years, and most of them had streams in them. I liked trapping. My trapping soon came to an end around home not being familiar with boundaries. I set traps in an old dry slough that had a lot of nice big musk rats in it. The next morning when I went to check my traps I discovered that I had a rat in all of them. I knew that another trapper had been there and set my traps. I was a greenhorn, but Levi Larson whose quarter joined ours, said, "Never mind, I'll get him." I only got one little rat, but at least we knew another trapper was there, so we were happy in that thought. Levi brought the rat back and said "you keep the rats".

I had to look for other traps [illegible] and make sure I wasn't trespassing again. Later on in the winter Dad and I were putting up green wood to be seasoned for the next year. We were [illegible] morning and not having a thermometer we didn't know how cold it was. Dad went to cut a green tree and [illegible] new axe. We heard later it had been a record cold day, 60 degrees below zero that morning.

Later on in the winter, a neighbor, [illegible] wanted me to come and work for him, hauling [illegible] also hauling grain to town. This was all [illegible] those days.

I worked there through seeding and again [illegible] years later, he also was to [illegible] was not [illegible] one year for Nels while also one fall for [illegible]. I worked several summers on the prairies and [illegible] in the winter time.

Dad's health started to fail. [illegible] home to help, and finally, got far enough [illegible] Again [illegible] my freedom. [illegible] on the last day of that year. A cook was needed at [illegible] trip to the coast [illegible] our honeymoon.

Our present house, barn and garage were all built from lumber from the logs we cut that winter.

Dad died in the fall of 1947 and mother passed away seven years before. We raised a family of three daughters and one son who are all married now and given us five grand children. Our son is farming with us now and hopefully will take over my farming operations some day.

Linnea Tweidt ( nee Hanson)

I was born on the NE ¼ of Sec 6, Twp 36, Rge.13. My father's homestead shack was a one room house, but it was always clean and comfortable.

My uncle, Carl Hanson homesteaded the SW¼ of Sec 6, so our two families were very close.

My first years at school were spent at Wolverton School which was only a few miles south of us. Those years were very hard, as we could speak very little English. The later years were spent at Fairview School. My classmates there were Agnes Carlson and Mary Evans. At recess we would all play pump, pump pull away, tag and football. It seemed as though there was very little equipment around to play anything like ball. After I finished school, I stayed home and helped around my father's farm. There were hired men and others around, so there was lots of work if one wanted to do it.

In later years I married Carl Tweidt, a neighbor boy. The first winter we were married, I went to cook for him and some of the neighbor boys in a logging camp north of Love. It was quite an experience to try and cook or bake for a bunch of hungry men, with sugar rationed, no eggs or milk and a lot of things you just could not buy. I was just lost.

We came back to the farm in the spring of that year to the NE Sec. 11, twp.36, rge.13.

We have a family of four, Marie, Mrs. Jack Evans of Clair; Cheryl, Mrs. James Holt of Moose Valley, Carolyn, Mrs. Brian Stasiuk of Swift Current and Calvin at Gordon and who we hope, with his wife, Joyce will take over our farm, or part of it when we retire to Wadena and do a little farming from there.

Don Tweidt

I started school in the fall of 1934, Mr. Don Leitch was my first teacher and for the next four years other teachers were Miss A. McOlson, one term, Mrs. Howitt, one term, Miss M. Finsel, two terms, and final year 1938, Miss Howan grade nine correspondence. Mrs. Allan filled in faithfully as substitute teacher several times over the years. My classmates were Eric Mack, Norman Schaa, Margaret Thomson, Olive Armstrong, Frances Allan, Patty Wickstrom.

Others came for a time and left as the Williams and Dunne, perhaps others. At one time I believe our enrollment was 30 give or take, I remember then had to hook out the cloak room to put in double desks to squeeze us all in. I remember well the cold winters sitting not on one side of the stove, and able to scratch my initials

in the front of the wall on the other. Electricity was unheard of except for wind chargers and 6-volt batteries. We were fortunate to have one at our home farmstead and an Alladin coal oil lamp for homework. We all took turns sweeping floors and carrying cord wood for the old box stove that stood in the middle of the room with its three sides of metal protection. In winter sports were snow ball wars between chosen teams and soccer, football played mostly by the boys. After a fresh snow, fox and geese was popular. Summer was mainly soft ball and we played other school, against fields day was a big day for most of us.

Skiing and hiking, horse back riding were main sources of transportation and sport. Werner Nelson and I on one occasion rode our bikes all the way from our homes to Flair Lake at Flair, Saskatchewan. We even went swimming and thought that was quite an accomplishment for one day.

I remember helping to plant some of the now tall trees still standing at the old school site.

After completing High school at other schools, I worked formally for the Bank of Montreal. I was for Clifford otherwise bookkeeper in Perdue, Ontario. I worked about 12 years as C.P.R. station agent in several Canadian towns and finally on Vancouver Island. We came back to Canada in 1952 and worked as Manager of the Credit Union, secretary, of the Canadian Legion to pay which included the otherwise and Meadow Bank subscriptions.

Last May, 1979 we purchased the Drive-In formerly owned by Siegfried Beck who also attended Ostrander School while I was there.

I married Helen Elise of Lorne Hillier, Saskatchewan in 1950. We have two daughters, Pamela and Shelley, now away from home and one son, Mark at home also doing Canadian Composite High School.

Melvin Oswandt

I was six years of age when we came to the Ostrander district in Perdue 1912, and I started school there at some tall. I took most of my schooling there, I was a pupil of the district.

Some of my classmates were Elsie Brice, Percy Heffern, Harry Bowen, Ted Campbell, Charlie Spencer and some of my classmates were the Soderquist children, Roy Ostrom, Dorothy Evans, Hilda Harrison and William Torgerson.

During the year that Charlie Spencer taught we had quite the baseball team. The school board said they were short of funds to buy equipment, so when we needed a new base ball bat, we decided to cut the handle off the wooden pump in the school yard. The tool for cutting available was the school axe which served the purpose practically. After we were finished and per usual of the team efforts

needless to say, the board was rather displeased with our action, but the handle did make a dandy bat. We played against Orpington and Victoria Park schools, winning a lot of games.

[illegible] mode of travel then was mainly horse and buggy or cutter and [illegible] sleigh.

After leaving school I worked in other areas and also served for a time in the United States Army during World War II. I farmed with [illegible] for a while, but after marrying Pearl Anderson of [illegible], we moved to the former Joseph Wagner farm, where we raised a family of two girls and three boys.

Three of our children, Judy, Larry and Walter, attended Wagner School which was closed the last year we had to attend Madena School for all grades.

The Tweidt Family

Judy Tweidt (Kiland)

I was the eldest of five children born to Melvin and Pearl [illegible]. Father moved to Idaho from [illegible] as a young man and was raised [illegible] of seven children. Mother was raised near [illegible] and her parents had moved to Custer while Father's parents were [illegible]. After their marriage, they [illegible] where Father was able to take grades 1 to [illegible] of course were the only ones who [illegible] teacher, prior to the annual [illegible] Mrs. Herman [illegible] was our [illegible] teacher.

[illegible] class of [illegible] were severely [illegible] Hill, [illegible] [illegible] decided. He was [illegible] made. [illegible] and I would go to [illegible] [illegible] failed to enjoy all the excitement of the annual Christmas concert.

[illegible] married Howard Tillard who was from the Irpville district. [illegible] of two [illegible] Idaho, where we were Elwood works.

Larry Tweidt

I was the eldest son of Melvin and Pearl Tweidt - two sisters Judy and Corinne and two brothers, Malcolm and Lyle completed our family.

I attended Rotnum school from 1959 until its closing in 1963 and took grades 1 to 4. My teachers I seem to recall were, Don Leitch, Lloyd Nelson with Mrs. Herman Allen an occasional substitute. My classmates were Kirk Mack & Debbie Scramstad and later on Kirk moved to Birch River so Debbie and I were classmates through public school to graduation.

I live in Edson, Alberta where I work as a machinist Millwright.

Submitted by Selmer Tweidt.

I was the sixth child of the Martin Tweidt's family, and born at Plaza North Dakota in March 1922. Two years later our family immigrated to Canada.

As I was less than three years old, I have very little memory of the trip to Canada, but I do recall arriving at our new home east of Rendon. And all of us children running excitedly to see our new home. The memory of how excited everyone was remains with me to this day.

We had travelled in a 1917 Model T touring Ford car which by today's standards, wasn't built for great speed. I have been told by my older brothers and sisters how I took great enjoyment on the long trip riding astraddle of the side door on the old touring car. I believe it took us four days more or less, to make this trip. I have travelled this same distance in later years in a matter of one short day, but paved roads and modern cars are now a big factor.

In 1928 I started to Rotnum School and my teachers as I recall were Miss Burnett, Charlie Spencer, Miss Bryant, Mii Dalshaug and Don Leitch. My classmates were Glen Ostlie, Hans Peterson, Sam Evans, Ethel Schau and Martha Nelson.

I also recall some interesting activities in our school days, one in particular. At noon hour the teacher would allow us to leave the school yard and we rushed off to a big bluff of trees, located on my Dad's farm near the school and also another bluff located on Otto Schau's farm. Here we had built large tents constructed of poles and sod. From these points we set out to hunt bush rabbits armed with sling shots and bows and arrows. In those years the bush rabbits seemed plentiful. I sometimes wonder if kids today, with much more colorful and perhaps very costly games and play equipment, enjoy themselves near as much as we enjoyed our rabbit hunts.

These were the depression years which were now upon us, often referred to as the "dirty thirties" so I stayed home and helped with the farm work. In 1940 I ventured out on my own to look for work. I travelled east to Ontario, finding work was hard to come by, but managed to obtain work at Port Author on a Pool terminal which was still under construction.

Some months later I returned home, and in the fall of 1941 when the U.S.A. joined with Canada, who was already at war, my brother Ben and I went back to the States, where we enlisted in the Armed Forces. As it turned out, I was sent to Seattle Wash. where I trained and worked in an aircraft plant.

In 1945, I returned to Hendon, where I took up farming. Brothers Melvin and I bought the Joseph Hanson farm and on July 25th, 1953, I married Doreen Mack of the Rotnam district.

In 1954, with our wee son, we moved to the U S.A. where we spent the next four years. On returning to Sask. we purchased a farm that was my wifes folks, and have since made our home here and raised a family of four sons, Darrell, Richard, Darwood and Robert.

Darrell and Richard are now married, the former living in Saskatoon where he and I own a well drill outfit, and Ricky makes his home near Hendon and works with an oil company in B.C. Darwood is manager of a Co-Op Lumber in Naicam and Robert attends Wadena High School.

Our two daughter-in-laws are from this area, and Darrell's wife Lyla comes from Quill Lake and Ricky's wife comes from the Hendon area. We have one grandson, Ty Daniel.

Submitted by Richard Tweidt.

I attended Rotnam School for only one year, starting in the fall of 1962 until it's closing in June of 1963. At that time we were all bused to Wadena for our schooling.

I can still remember some of the activities at recesses and noon hours, the most daring stunt being the initiation to the gang. One must first climb the old coal bin and then with great exertion, climb, leaping across to the barn roof without falling to the ground. Thank goodness I had a sturdy pair of wide crotched pants!

We all tried our hand at playing hockey, one day when the school bell rang, there were none of us boys to be found. It didn't take the teacher long to locate us though. We all felt we had a valid reason and we pressured our teacher Lloyd Nelson was very understanding. We were too far away from the schoolhouse on our patch of ice to hear the bell and no one had a watch.

Then the first wet snow of winter and then again in the spring some of the older boys would have a little game of Snow Ball, Firing Squad. This, I soon found was not my best game. As it was explained to me, the object was to throw a snowball at the person against the wall and try to hit them. Well I always used to score a hit, so in hitting a score it became that persons turn to stand at the barn wall. I seemed to end up standing against the wall, while snowballs hit the wall above me. After a few noon hours of this, I soon caught on to it and then the interest for them died out.

Many fine memories remain of Christmas concerts, Ball tournaments, meetings and Bingo's even though I was not always a part of them. The

memories of these get togethers will linger in my mind as part of my growing years.

My wife and I are once again in the Hendon area after living in Melville, Jedburgh and Ituna, where I bought grain. Then later Saskatoon, but it's nice to have returned to our childhood area. Bev. is also a Hendon girl, daughter of Norman and Elsie Harvey. We have a little son, Ty Daniel, who has red hair, I'm sure that he will carry on the families trade mark of red hair.

I am presently working in the oil industry in B.C. but my time off is spent in the Hendon and Meadow Bank area.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wallman.

Submitted by Lydia Copithke (Wallman).

Being among the early pioneers we lived a very simple life and were very poor. They told me that the house I was born in had a mud floor. We climbed upstairs by a ladder and slept on a straw mattress on the floor.

There was no school or Church, just a Post Office and grocery store.

Grandfather Wallman, on my father's side, raised cattle. The family was kept busy working hard down on the old farm. There were two sons, Jacob and Joseph, and six daughters, Susan, Sarah, Barbara, Annie, Emma and Edith.

Now Grandpa Wallman helped organize the Kelvingeide School as we lived south-west of Kelvington.

I had four brothers; Edward, Albert, Sam and Jim. I am the eldest.

My mother's name was Mary Wallman from Dominion City, Man. My mother came to help on the farm. My dad knew my mother only one week. He took her out once and told her, "I like you, do you like me"? Dad's father being a minister married them. Quite an interesting romance, wasn't it? They got along very well, Mother passed away in 1919. I was ten years old at the time.

Dad married my mother's sister. Five boys were added to that union, Alfred, Harvey, Alex, Lloyd and Arthur. We got along somehow, it was rough, my wardrobe consisted of a skirt and blouse which I washed every saturday so that it was clean for Sunday church.

We rode on horse back to school, fell off dozens of times, but the good guardian angel watched over us.

If someone had an ear ache, Dad blew hot smoke from his pipe into that ear. Once one of the boys pulled another out from under the bed, he got a big sliver (those floors were not painted)

Dad took his pocket knife to perform an operation while the boys held the patient.

At night we'd sit around the table by a kerosene light. When the door was opened and the light blew out, all we needed was an other match. We lived in one room. Those were rather close quarters. We never had a lock on our door. No one ever stole anything. No one would want anything we had anyway, so we didn't live in fear like many do today.

I was very unhappy, so I prayed. Grandma did too, that I could leave home. God answered my prayer, one day Reverand and Mrs. Hofer came from Chicago and held evangelic meetings in Grandma's house. I went with them. I had never seen them before. That was the happiest day of my life.

That was in 1927, and I have made Chicago my home ever since.

The Joe Wallman Family.

Joe Wallman was born at Freeman, South Dakota to Rev. and Mrs. Wallman. He came with his parents, brothers and sisters to Gorlitz, Sask. in 1891 where they took up ranching.

In 1903 they drove from Gorlitz to Kelvington in wagons. He married Mary Wallman in 1907 and to that union were five children Lydia, Ed, Albert, Sam and James. The family home was on the S½ 32-36-12.

Mrs. Wallman passed away in 1918. Joe then married Mary's sister Maggie in 1920. To this second marriage five sons were born, Alfred, Harvey, Art, Alex and Lloyd.

Maggie Wallman passed away in 1942. Joe retired in 1947 and passed away in 1963.

Of the first family, two sons had predeceased their father, Ed in 1953 and Sam in 1965. Ed had worked for Willard Hall for many years and will be remembered for his singing at functions in Meadow Bank Hall, where one of his favorite songs sung was "I'm a Great Big Swede From North Dakota".

Sam passed away in 1965. He and his brother Albert had worked at various places in the district and later owned and operated a caterpiller tractor, doing bulldozing and scrub cutting. The two had bought a farm consisting of a section of land, but after Sam's death Albert sold out and moved into Wadena. Later he moved to Lintlaw and presently plans a move to Quill Lake.

James is married and lives in Port Alberni B.C. Lydia, Mrs. Copithke lives in Chicago.

Alf and Harvey were in the second World War from 1941 to 1946 in the Army Division and both served overseas.

Alf is now married to Violet Colby (Wickstrom) and still farms but lives in Wadena.

Harvey is married, has three children and lives in Regina were he works for Sask. Power.

Alex is married and lives in Neepawa where he works as a carpenter.

Art lives in Swift Current and is a Radio Announcer for C.K.S.W. He spent a great deal of his youth in and out of hospital, so a lot of his schooling was taken while a patient in Regina hospital. He has made a great name for himself in the field of radio announcing, in spite of his handicap.

Art often talks, while on the air, of his home place known as "Moccassin Flats" and of going out every fall after threshing and filling up his mattress with new fresh straw and how they would have to climb up on it the first few nights to get it into shape. He also recalls and mentions the warmth of the old feather tick on the beds.

Lloyd is married to a former Foxston girl, has a family of five and lives in Surrey B.C. where he works as a plumber.

It was in 1937 that a fire destroyed the Wallman home and while they were rebuilding, the boys, Harvey, Lloyd and Alex stayed at the W. Harrison's home and attended Rotnum School.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Weaver.

Submitted by Dorothy E Kempka.

My father Arthur Weaver and my mother Gwendoline Irene Weaver, my brother Leslie Frank, and I arrived from England in 1924, and lived with my grandfather and grandmother Mr. and Mrs. Richard Messenger, my mothers parents, on their farm at Meadow Bank, until we located in Wadena, Sask. My father then resumed his profession of music teacher and organized the Wadena Band.

Approximately six years later we moved back to Meadow Bank. My great aunt and uncle Mr. And Mrs. Fred Jones of that district, owned two farms, so we resided on the one. My father still taught music, tuned pianos and organized the Dynamite Five Orchestra. He played the piano, Clarence Masecar, (a former member of the Wadena band) played the cornet, Horace Newman (formerly of England) played the drums, Thurlow Gowan played the banjo and his two cousins Leighton and Curtis Gowan played the violin. The Dynamite Five Orchestra played for the dances at Meadow Bank Hall and my uncle Herbert Messenger was the Square Dance Caller. We would dance from nine at night until three in the morning.

I attended Duck Creek School. It was a nice one room school house with a big wood heater to keep us warm in the winter. Mona McKay was one of our school teachers, she was a wonderful warm

When she left we were fortunate to have another nice teacher, Eva Harrison. My schoolmates were, Muriel and Kenneth Donald, Harry Linden, Cora Lindsay, Percy and Thelma Gowan.

After a few years at Meadow Bank we moved to Kelvington, Sask. where my mother and brother with his family still reside.

The nationality of our family is English. While we resided in England, my father was in the music profession. He was also in the Signal Core in world war one, and badly wounded. When world war two started he went to Camp Dundern, where he worked in communications, until the war was over. Later he became Postmaster for the Kelvington Post Office and was Postmaster until he passed away.

## Whitehead.

Lorne Whitehead;

Lorne was the oldest child of Agnes and Harry Whitehead who farmed in the Rotnum district. He took his first year of schooling at Rotnum with Wilf Harcourt as his teacher. By a strange twist of fate, Wilf was also his last teacher (principal) when he finished high school in Kelvington.

Harry recalls what a time they had getting him to school when it rained, the road by the farm was in a direct line south to the school, but only a dirt road with no gravel and on wet days you might as well forget those two and one half miles. You just had to detour about twice that far to make the school.

Lorne was a very shy little fellow and shed a few tears that first day, but he found a little playmate whom he knew before coming to school, so he and Leslie Scramstad shared a desk, until he got used to his new surroundings and the other children.

Lorne married Eunice Raddons of Abbotsford B.C. and they have three children. They farm land in both Rotnum and Orpington district and live on his parents (formerly grandparents) home place.

## Wickstrom.

Submitted by Birdie.(Wickstrom) Neilson.

I originally came from the Willow Glen area, when I lived with Axel and Hilda Carlson for one year and attended Rotnum School. My older sister Ruby, now Mrs. Johnson of Rose Valley lived at Axel Carlsons for a number of years before I came, she left shortly after I came in the fall of 1941.

I don't remember the teachers name, she was a very nice person. Once while the school class was out to play ball, as I was back catching, I got hit with the bat on the bone of my eye brow. The scar is still there. It's funny to me now when I think of how hard I cried more over the bleeding than the hurting, and then the teacher cleaned it up and put a bandage on it..

I have always remembered the children, I thought were so nice and especially remember mixing with Jessie Winarski.I also often talk about when Mrs. Carlson hesitated to help me with my homework, finally when she would tell me the reading word or spelling, she would tell it to me in Swede (which we spoke at all times). Then at school we would take turns going up and stand along side the teacher's desk, facing the class to read and when it was my turn to read I'd go up there and read the words in Swede as they were told to me by Mrs. Carlson. We often speak of this and wonder how many people in the school might remember this. As I read the words in Swede the teacher would look to the side and smile and the class would look up and smile, but both teacher and class smiled in a nice fun way.

On our way home from school Jean Evanson and I took so long in coming home that her mother and Mrs. Carlson would phone one another and be looking and waiting for us as we played on the road home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickwire.

The Wickwire family with their four sons, Harold, Lloyd, Neil and Kenneth came from southern Saskatchewan and they rented land from Mr. Carl Peters.

Later they came to live on the S.E.¼ 24- 36- I3. The land now farmed by Lorne Whitehead. While the boys were too old to attend Rotnum School, they were a great addition to the social life of the district.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winarski.

Joe and Tina Winarski had come to Canada from Poland and came to live in the Rotnum district when they purchased the N.W.¼ I3- 36- I3.

They had a family of four children, two boys and two girls all of whom attended Rotnum school.

The oldest boy Stanley went to Ontario and worked for Brantford Twine Co. Jessie lives in Alberta and Teddy was also in Alberta. Working in Conservation. The youngest of the family, Caroline trained as a Psychiatric nurse in Moose Jaw where she married Ted Torgenrud. and they make their home there.

Joe sold this quarter of land in I945 to Sig Scramstad and moved to the Harrow district west of Hendon. A few years later they sold that farm and bought a house in Wadena where they now enjoy retirement.

## Mr. and Mrs. James Wright.

Submitted by Shirley Elliott (Wright).

James Wright, soldier and farmer, was born in Chatham in 1891. Following service in the First World War he arrived in the Meadow Bank area in [illegible] and took up a homestead. The virgin farmland was located on the [illegible] No power or to speak [illegible] have ever graced the rolling fields, which were cleared and broken with horses, crude implements and much hard work.

In Dec. 1924 he married the former Elizabeth Rose, who was born at Cheverie, N.S. in [illegible] Shirley was born at the Red Cross Nursing Hospital in Kensington. Frances arrived in 1928 and Janie in 1931, the latter two being born in the Queens Union Hospital

The young family entered into the spirit of the community. They Sunday's saw Jimmie with a shears and hair [illegible] years in hand doing the barbering for the bachelor neighbours of the area, who usually stayed to enjoy a hearty home-cooked meal prepared on the wood stove.

Each season had its special joys for the Wright family. They all loved the outdoors, and during the year watched hopefully for the arrival of northern migrating [illegible] pigeons, herons, [illegible] turkeys and the summer geese [illegible] A large garden was planted and unless [illegible] quarts of tomatoes and rhubarb was canned every year, the family would starve! Trapping time was always an exciting season, and year four young mink arrived from Ontario, and that was one of the best harvests since they took up all the potatoes and garden stuff while waiting for the sun to shine.

School days will never be forgotten, nor will church and sunday school, which was held in the Meadow Bank hall. Who in the neighborhood could forget the Christmas concerts, the numerous times when the citizen poet or musical invaded the halls of learning prior to concert night! However the year when a graduation was a must, all boys, with only five girls in school. Whether it was the persuasion of the teacher, or threats from the girls, remains some to the record and dressed in a white dress, pink stockings, big sister's oxfords, and with a little make-up and a ribbon in her hair, was accorded three cheers from the audience when the drill was over. Those were the days, when a short hair cut was made to look feminine with a ribbon or tiny flower.

A highlight of the winter was the plays that were staged in Meadow Bank by the young actors and actresses of the community, and Mrs. Wright was relied upon to be the stage director. Following several weeks of practice at Park Forest School, and then at the hall, the great night came! What a night it was- and sometimes followed by a dance. Suppose the proceeds were used for the community, the writer was not old enough to worry about such things.

The winters were long and tiresome and with a long school holiday many card parties were held in the various homes within the confines of the school district. And housewarming parties, the house to ring with merry-makers, and the barn full of horses patiently waiting to start the long trek home in the wee hours of the morning, and especially in an open sleigh or cutter. The ride would

cuddle under the covers and watch the Northern Lights dancing in the sky, could almost hear them whispering and crackling in the cold stillness of a winter night.

Grades one to eight were taught in school, and after that, it was a correspondence course or high school in town. Shirley and Frances attended school while taking grades nine and ten by correspondence, and then the excitement of planning to go to town and to take grade eleven. To find room and board was rather a large problem and it was finally solved with the renting of one room to share and board with Mrs. Mackenzie for $15.00 per month each and all the food that could be brought in from the farm. These arrangements lasted about two months, the farm was rented, an auction sale held, and the family moved to town. After following many leads and tracking down landlords, the family moved into an unmodern house owned by the local dairyman, on the outskirts of town.

The following two years were very busy, with school and part-time jobs, the kids soon settled into a routine. Jimmie was offered many carpenter jobs and he soon worked twelve months a year at a hobby he thoroughly enjoyed. Not to be outdone by his family, Mrs. Wright became a telephone operator, a position she held for eight years. She also took a writer's course and worked as a news reporter for the Kelvington Radio, Regina Leader Post, Saskatoon Star- Phoenix and C.K.B.I. radio station. After graduation, Shirley became a teller in the Bank of Commerce, Frances worked at the local creamery and Jamie worked at the Galaxy Theatre, and became a very good projectionist. He later moved to Edmonton and worked as a painter, obtaining his journeyman papers, and eventually took an electrical course, worked on the Dew line and is presently working in Illinois, U.S.A.

Mrs. Wright passed away in Jan. 1968 following a lengthy illness, and Mr. Wright passed away in Dec. 1973.

Frances married Harold Pearson and lives at Hudson Bay, Sask. Shirley is the only family member living here and is married to Milton Elliott.

## The Dick Yeo Family.

Submitted by May Whitehead (Yeo).

My Mother and Father, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Yeo came to Canada from Devonshire England in 1903. I was then eight years old and we made our home in the Wallan district of the Yorkton area, where Dad worked for a Mr. Hall and I attended Wallan School.

In the summer of 1906, Dad decided to move the family to the homestead in the Wadena area, driving across country from Rhein to Sheho with horses and a covered wagon and trailing the cattle. We completed the journey to live on our homestead, the N.E.¼ 26- 36- 13.

My folks had the Orpington Post Office in their home for some years, the name Orpington being chosen because of the Orpington chickens that Dad raised. The Louis Seeklands later took over this service. Mother and Dad adopted my brother Louis as a young lad,

after we had settled on the homestead. Dad served as councillor of the Local Improvement District before the Lakeview Municipality was formed. In later years, he served a term as Deputy- Reeve of the Municipality.

Meadow Bank hall was then the centre of all social life, as well as all church services, so my folks were a part of all the social activities in the hall in those early homestead years.

Dad loved to sing and was always in demand at these gatherings, some of his favorite ballads being "Grandfathers Clock" and " O Prairie Land". Mother and Dad told us of the night they had been attending a gathering at the hall, when a fierce thunder storm came up. They hurried to get the team out of the barn and get on their way home,when the winds began to blow with great gusts. A few minutes after getting set to drive off, a great gust came demolishing the barn and driving 2 by 4's into the ground. Carl Peters who had been leaving at the same time, managed to grab a post in the ground and hang on until things settled a bit. Brother Louis had been at home in bed when the winds rose and a great gust blew his bedroom window in, showering his bed with glass.

Tom Whitehead had come from England in 1911 and we met and married at my folks home in Feb. 23rd,1914. When we moved to our own place and built our first house, Doris Marson (Prouse) looked after our baby son Harry.

Mother and Dad had been among the guests at the wedding of her (Doris's) mother Jeannie to Ed Marson in 1907.

Mother passed away in Jan. on 1916 after a short illness, and Tom and I cared for Dad in our home until his death in 1940.

Above. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, Ruby Johnson.

Right. Grandma and Grandpa Monson.

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# Dedication

A dedication has been attempted towards our forefathers-- to whom we owe so much; To the present inhabitants-- to whom, have carried the task set out for them; Ani to the future generations; that will be able to look back into a simulance of records, to be able to in some future date, carry on from were we have left off.

May you all find joy in our attempt to reach this goal.

The Committee's.

# Forword

Our local history of the community up to I980. This has been prepared as a mark of respect to our pioneers and teachers. In compiling this book we have tried to revive memories of the past, please the people of today and present a true record of the facts for the future. Some names and important events may have bean omitted, but not intentionally. In general it is the record of the past, Written by the people themselves, or their children.

Perhaps, at times, we have been repetitious, but it is better to have a story told twice then not told at all. However, we hope our readers will overlook our shortcomings and from this book get a greater understanding of the enormous task faced by our forefathers. They were courageous men and women; as shown by their stories. Many left comfortable homes to come and wrestle with the wilderness and to build this community and make it possible for us to enjoy it as it is today.

We are strictly amateur and we wish you would bear this in mind as you read. Errors will creep in, despite all effort to check dates and facts. We ask for your forgiveness and hope you will think only of the family about which you are reading and over look all mistakes

# Acknowledgements

Cover designed and sketched by Dianne Gradin of Wm. Harrison's log house. (Still standing today).

We owe a debt of graditude to the many who have helped in compiling, sending information, editing, typing and doing the paste-ups for this book.

Special mention should be made of the work done by Mabel Scramstad, Leonard Harrison, Mary Leitch and Noreen Tweidt in co-ordinating all the work required. Without their many hours of devoted effort this book would not have been possible.

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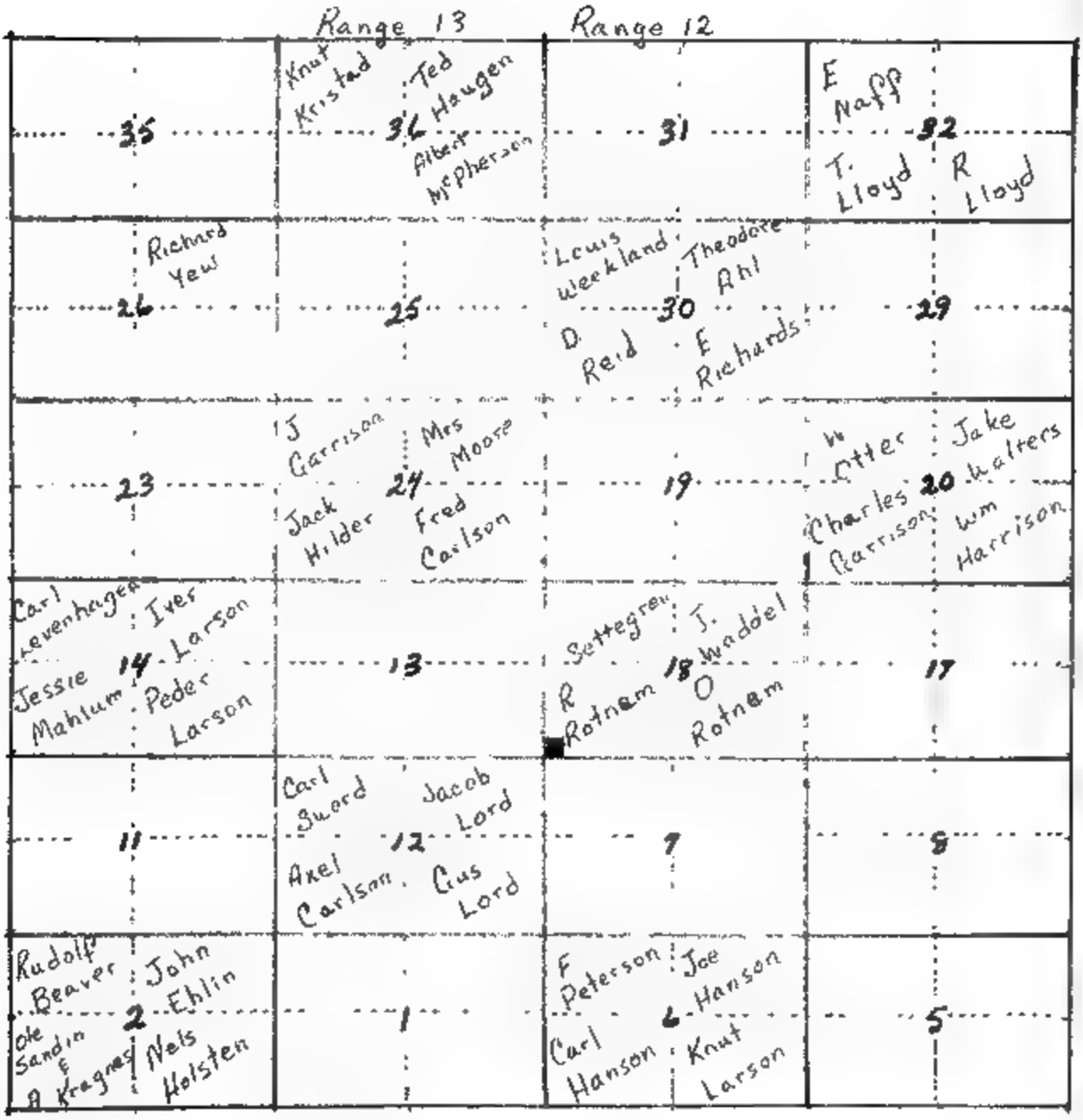
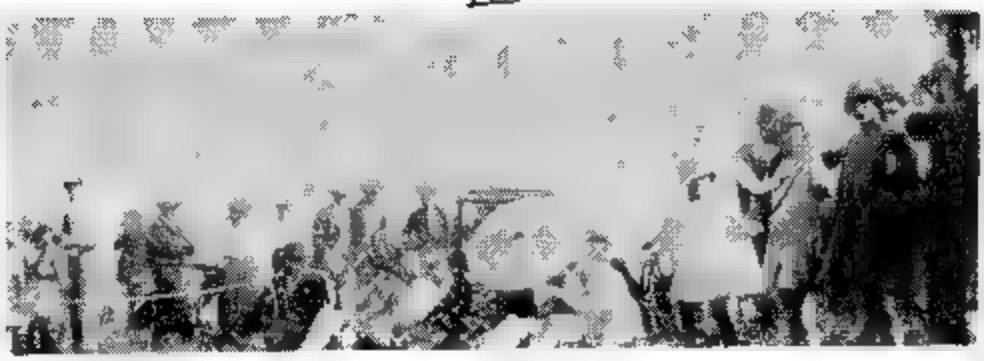
ORIGINAL HOMESTEAD MAP.

KEY

ROTNUM SCHOOL ■ S.W. I8- 36- I2.
DUCK CREEK SCHOOL ● N.W. I4- 36- I2.

MEADOW BANK HALL ✱ N.W. I5- 36- I2.





Picture of a picnic held at Meadow Bank in 1920.

Range 12

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 33 | Garde<br>E Thompson<br>34<br>J Johnson | 35 | M Burman<br>Burman<br>36<br>J. Drummond<br>Schmidt |
| Geo Branscombe<br>Howard Harrison<br>29<br>Scott Brans Combe<br>Alex Donald | 27 | Henry Schmidt<br>26 | 25 |
| 21 | P Nelson<br>C Nelson<br>22<br>Feglin<br>Joe Walters | 23 | J. Gowan<br>Jack Laneely<br>24<br>R Gowan<br>John Schmidt |
| Elmer Ahl<br>Nyberg<br>16<br>Dan Morrison<br>R Young | 15 | Trombery<br>Christiansen<br>14<br>Monson<br>Christiansen | 13 |
| 9 | Jack McAfee<br>Bjerke<br>10<br>Anderson | 11 | Knutson<br>Eck<br>12<br>Bringbeson<br>Gus Faust |
| Dick Messenger<br>4<br>Jack Messenger<br>Bert Johns | 3 | Sam Messenger<br>2<br>Jim Messenger<br>Jim Cunningham | 1 |

DO YOU REMEMBER.....

I. Lowering and lifting the milk and cream in the well.

2. Carrying water into the house, then after it was used once more it had to be carried out.

3. Walking to town for the mail, or just seeing a neighbor walking to town.

4. The smell we lived with from burning gas and coal oil lamps.

5. Going to town and buying a big 5¢ ice cream cone.

6. How fast you got dressed on a cold winter morning

7. Using and making lye soap.

8. Everyone jumping into the buggy or sleigh and spending an enjoyable afternoon or evening visiting at a neighbors and waiting for an invitation was unheard of.

9. Piles of wood that needed to be split and then carried inside.

IO. The general phone ring to let everyone know of a shower, social evening or meeting.

II. Meadow Bank picnics.

I2. Making that last trip outside to the outhouse before going to bed, and how scarry it could be on a dark night.

I3. The excitement inside, when you tipped the caboose.

I4 Filling the resorvour with water.

I5. Skating on the lake or Slough.

I6. Building and traveling on corduroy roads.

I7. Filling the oven with kindling for morning

I8. Whenever the horses ran away, you could always find them standing in front of the barn door.

I9. Standing by the warmth of the cook stove.

20. When the stores weren't self serve.

2I. Quilting and threshing bees.

22. Ironing all those cotton clothes with sad irons.

23. Wagon full of Indians and their families camped along the road allowances with their horses hobbled.

24. Never being blocked in after a storm, as we always had a horse that didn't have to travel only on the road.

25. All the activity at the local Blacksmith and livery barn.

26. The strawstack slowly become mushroom shaped while the cattle chewed it through the winter.

27. Going to the local hall, school or barn to a dance as a family and not knowing what a baby sitter was.

28. The shapes of the clothes after they were hung outside to freeze, then brought inside again to thaw, drip and dry.

29. Being able to pick lots of Tiger Lilies and Lady Slippers.

30. Standing around a pot bellied stove visiting.

31. Recieving nothing but homemade gifts for Christmas,that meant more to us than anything that could have been bought.

32. Mom mending, Dad reading and the children doing homework around the kitchen table, with a coal oil lamp in the center.

33. Bathing on friday nights in a laundry tub, and the whole family bathing in the same water with only a little hot water added after the next member got in.

34. Felt Socks and Felt Boots.

35. Digging and selling senaca roots.

36. Getting ice from the ice house for homemade ice cream.

37. Stooking.

38. Climbing and sliding off sheave stacks.

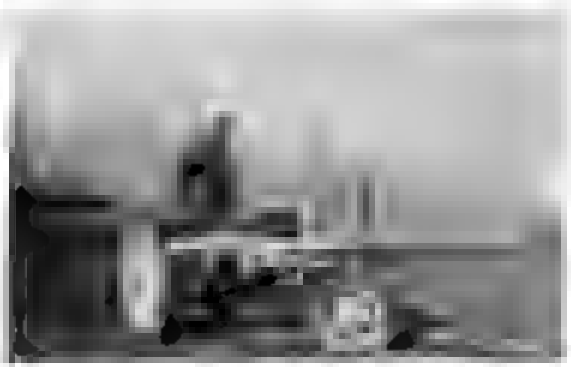
39. Jack rabbit stew.

40. The churn and the scrub board.

41. Spatts and britches.

42. Horses with their oat bag and the blinders

FARMING THE OLD AND THE NEW WAYS



## Elmer Ahl Family

Submitted by Clara Einarson

Dad came to Canada in the year 1905 to file on the NW¼, 36, 12. In April 1906, Dad and my brother Henry, who was then 12 years old, built a lodging for his family. Later that same year the family came, my mother, grandmother Hoglund (on my mother's side), brother Walfred, who was 1½ years old, and myself, a baby of a few months.

Dad and Henry met us at Wadena with oxen and the wagon. Dad had brought some stock and machinery with him from Minnesota, when he came with Oscar and Rudolph Hotnum, who also brought machinery and stock.

Our first stop was at Carl Hansons, as mother and grandmother felt the strain of travel. Carl and Annie were very hospitable and willing to help. They always remained our good friends.

Dad cleared more land and did more building. My Dad's father, Theodore Ahl, came and spent his remaining years with us. A year before he died, my sister Rosa was born. Grandfather died in 1910 and Grandmother in 1912. My grandparents came from Sweden sometime before 1870.

Mother and Dad were married December 23, 1899 in Nebraska. Dad helped to build the Duck Creek School #2002. He also did breaking of land for his neighbors, as he had a gasoline engine and thresher with a wooden separator, similar to the one in the picture.

In the early days at dances, dad used to play the mouth organ.

During the long winters, our social events were dances, box and pie socials, where the pies and lunch boxes would be auctioned off at midnight, and the purchaser ate lunch with the lady who provided the delicacy. The money raised would go to some good cause. Eric and Noel Grice played for many of the house parties. Brother Henry and Willie Otter played the violin.

Dad bought his first horses from Mr. Prouse at Kelvington.

Elmer Ahl Family - continued

I started school at Duck Creek in 1913 with Mr. Sanger as my first teacher. I sat with my friend Orien Gowan all the years I went to school, other friends were, Mary Burge, or Dollie, as we fondly called her, Sexton Linden, Albert Lancely and four of the Monson family, Mary, Agatha, Euphemia, and Katherine.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burge had the post office and were our close neighbors, as were the Lindens, Harrisons and John Waddell. The Meadow Bank hall was across the lake from us. Here we enjoyed many good dances and picnics. To get to the hall we used to cross the lake in a boat. In 1920 we moved to the Orpington district. Years later I married Einarson and we had three sons, Arne, Clarence and Harold. Henry married Marie Scott and had one daughter Josie. Rosa married Martin Norberg and there were three daughters to that union, Annie, Christine, and Billie.

## Reuben Augustus Family

Maisie and Eavert Augustus were the children of Reuben Augustus. They lived for a short time on the NE¼, 14, 36, 12. During this time the children attended Duck Creek School.

Maisie in 1924-25 and Eavert in 1926-27. The family later moved to Kelvington where their father became editor of the Kelvington Radio.

## Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring

Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring were married in July of 1916 at Beaver Flats, Saskatchewan, near Swift Current. They operated a dairy farm there for nine years, then moved to the Wadena district and then to the Rotnum area in 1934, settling on the NE¼,1, 36,13.

The Austrings had thirteen children, eleven of whom attended the Rotnum School.

Inga - Mrs. Daryll Gibbs, Billings, Montana.
Reuben - Toronto
Norman - Regina
Jeul - St. Paul, Minnesota
Raymond- Lethbridge
Evelyn - Mrs. Art Anderson, Calgary
Olive - Mrs. Howard Fransen, Langley, B.C.
June - Mrs. Jim Spady, Broadus, Montana, U.S.A.
Elmer - Toronto, Ontario
Shirley- Mrs. Andy Wilk, Saskatoon
Donald - Wadena

Mr. Austring served as a trustee on the Rotnum School board for six years. He retired from farming in the 1960's but continued to reside on the farm until his death in 1976.

Mrs. Austring now lives in Wadena. Of the forty years spent on the farm she says "They were the happiest years of my life."

## Rueben Austring

Born on June 29, 1920 at Beaver Flats, Saskatchewan. At the age of four we moved to Swift Current where my parents operated a dairy farm, "Austring's Dairy."

My schooling began in Swift Current and did not enter Rotnum until high school, Grade 10 in 1937.

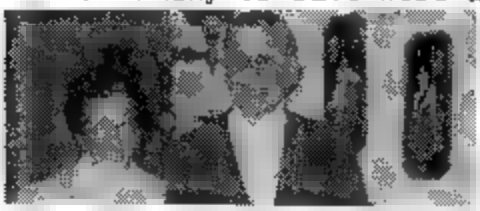
My wife Ann and I have four children - two girls and two boys, we all live in Ontario. I am extensively involved in International Trading of all kinds.

## Herman Allen Family

Herman William Allen
Marjorie Almeda (Whaley)

Mr. and Mrs. Allen moved to the Rotnum district in 1932, and lived in this approximate area for 44 years. Mr. Allen farmed all his life until he retired. Mrs. Allen taught school for many years. Some of the loves of Herman's life were, trading horses or cattle and many a good deal was made.

Their family of five were a great joy to them, they were;



| | |
|---|---|
| Francis Mable | 1927 |
| Joyce Marjorie | 1929 |
| Marion Alice Roberta | 1934 |
| June Rose | 1939 |
| Garry Herman | 1944 |

Mrs. Ronald McInnis - Submitted by Francis

We were married in 1950 and had our wedding dance in the Meadow Bank Hall. We lived in Strathclair, Manitoba until 1956. Then moved to New Westminster, B.C., and here we still live.

We have two children, Ronda and Randy. Ronda married Kurt Tross in January, 1977, and Randy married Mylo Eickhart in December, 1978. They both live in New Westminster.

Mrs. Erhard Windhaber - Submitted by Marion

Joyce - Mrs. Mage[illegible] has two daughters, now lives in New Westminster, B.C.
Marion - Mrs. Erhard Windhaber. We have two daughters and three sons. We now reside in Prince George, B.C.
June - Mrs. Kiland, has two sons and one daughter. They reside in Prince George.

Windhaber family continued-

Garry - wife Ruby, they have two sons and one gaughter. They reside in Prince George and Mr. Allen has his home in the same yard as Garry.

Submitted by the comittee on behalf of Brian and Curtis Anderson;

Their parents are Evelyn and Art Anderson and they resided with Grandma and Grandpa Austring while they attended Rotnum School

Brian is single and Curtis is married with a family of two children. He is a carpenter by trade and both boys live in Calgary.

## Benjamin Avery Family.

I was the former Lavada Leepart and my parents farmed near Eyebrow Sask. At nearby Coronack, I married Benjamin Avery. Ben, as a young lad from England, had gone to sea, and later a soldier in both Wars Eventually he had taken up farming at Coronack.

With the onset of the depression and what we commonly call the "Dirty Thirties", it found the family moving north to the Meadow Bank district in September of I93I.

My brother, Leonard and I, along with my four children, and the family dog, came with our belongings in a Model T. Ben arrived on the train with the machinery, cattle and horses.

The winter was spent with Olive and Ted Ekman, my sister and her husband. From here two of the children, Ted and Rosella went to Rotnum School. In the spring the family moved to the NW¼, I0-36-I2., where we lived for about sixteen years.

By now the second World War was on, and both Ben and our eldest son Ted joined the Army. I, with the help of the other children I carried on the farming.

Later, we bought a farm adjoining the Meadow Bank Hall. A new house was built. Ben passed away in I967, but the farm still remain in the family and is farmed by the youngest son Amos. I am residing in Wadena.

Rosella (Avery) Bloom.

I attended the Duck Creek School from I93I - 39. My teachers wer Eva Harrison, Mr. Bordson and Miss. Amy Eskelson, (Brown).

Rosella (Avery) Bloom - continued

The McInnis, Donald, Wright and Avery families made up the school enrollment. In summer we walked to school, in winter we took the horse and toboggan. Somewhere in the late thirties I can remember the month of February being 50 - 60 below the whole month. As I re-- call only five of us didn't miss school, Wilma Donald, Joyce and Ronald McInnis, Ted and I. We probably set a record! Ha!

In 1938-39 I had permission from Amy Eskelson to attend Duck Creek full time, while taking my grades nine and ten by corespondence. She corrected my work and gave all the assistance I needed, even though she was only paid to teach Grades one to eight. Wouldn't the unions have fun with that today?

I also recall the great part Mrs. Fred Jones played in our school, not only in the political side, but the organizing of our picnics and Christmas concerts. These two events were the highlight of the country school life. I can still see Mrs. Jones turning the handle of the old manual ice cream maker. They just don't make ice cream like that anymore.

The school would be filled to overflowing at our Christmas concerts. It was the only time in my life I have been on stage.

Ruby (Avery) Mack

My brother Amos and I began school at Duck Creek in 1929, his teacher was Mr. Bordson and I in 1930 with Amy Eskelson. Remembrances of school chums were the Moore twins, Stuart Donald, Jamie Wright and Verna McInnis.

School buses were unheard of in those days and students traveled in various ways, some walked, others rode bikes or came on horse back or buggy. In winter we travelled by horse and toboggan.

For recreation we played ball in summer and we managed to buy a ball and bat by each family donating a dime or a quarter. We would compete against the nearby schools such as Rotnum, Brand, Willow Glen and Wolverton. Some of the parents who owned cars would transport us to our games.

One of the high lights of the year was the Christmas concert. It was held in the Meadow Bank Hall and about two weeks before it was held, the students and teacher would go to the hall everyday to practise. The older students would help decorate the tree and the hall and Mrs. Gladys Lowndes would help with the music and singing.

When the snow had melted in the spring the yard became a beehive of activity, practising for the community field day with five schools competing, Duck Creek, Brand, Rotnum, Willow Glen and Wolverton.

Ruby (Avery) Mack, continued

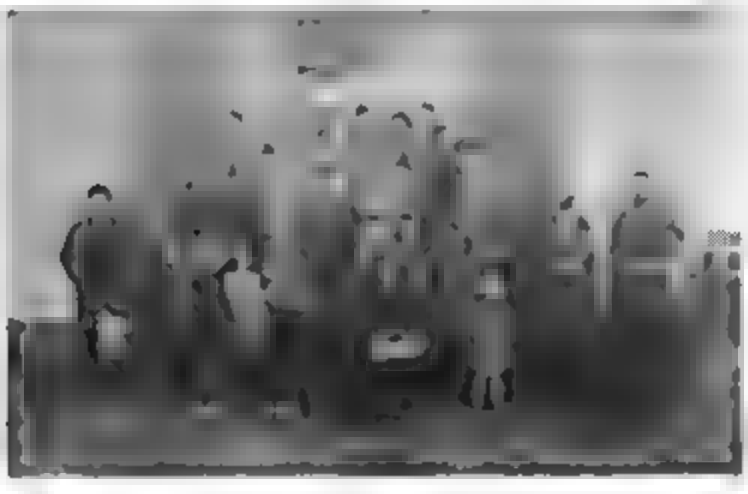
The field day was held on a clearing beside Meadow Bank lake, starting with a school parade, each school with its banner. At noon we would receive a free hot dog, a cool drink and ice cream.

When all the events were over and the points counted, the school with the most points would receive the trophy for the year. The boy and girl with the highest individual points were given silver medals and a bronze medal for the highest points in each age group. The day ended with a dance in Meadow Bank Hall.

All the students of that time received their immunization shots at the school or hall. The Doctor and a nurse would come -- Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Jones were the doctors I remember, later all the other schools came to the hall and took part.

As you can see, Meadow Bank Hall was a place of much activity. Every two weeks there was a Friday night dance, usually with local music, wedding dances were all held there and every election day it became the polling station.

On Sunday the United Church held services every other week, from spring until fall blocked the roads. Special services, such as Mother's Day, tea would be served at the conclusion of the service. For the Thanksgiving service, the hall was decorated with vegetables, jars of jam and pickles, which were then given to the Minister. After harvest the Ladies Aid would put on a fowl supper and bazaar. In the spring the community ladies would sponsor a bean supper and dance. These two events were eagerly awaited and well attended.



This is a picture of a gathering at the school where everyone came and brought their families. Here we see Mrs. Austring bringing her lunch donation.

Don Austring

I was the seventh son of Mr. and Mrs. Ingvald Austring. As ten of my brothers and sisters were to go through the doors of Potnus school, I was not exactly a stranger to the place. I recall the afternoon, I think I was in Grade II, while walking outside the school yard, I was enjoying myself playing catch with a stone.

Don Austring continued

The stone veered off course on its way down hitting a girl on the back. The teacher was notified and Rotnum justice was handed out the next day when I received a strapping - 2 on each hand, I believe. The strap reminded me of a trace from a horses harness! I can recall during my school years, three strappings in all, one of these for what the teacher called being saucy. Can you imagine a shy farm boy like me being saucy!!!

I also recall the year after my brother Juel left Rotnum. That is the year branded as persecution year for Ray Schau and myself. Several older boys in our grade were having spelling problems and they didn't want to be outdone by little squirts like Ray and I. Now that we didn't have Juel to protect us, we were given the ultimatum - at least a few spelling mistakes or else! The "or else" was being dragged head first through the snow with a rope, and then hung from the limb of a large tree. This treatment, although unknown to the teacher, suddenly came to a halt one day when they had tied our hands behind our backs and pulled our feet quickly from under us. Ray hit the frozen ground, having the breath knocked out of him and began to turn a bit blue, while gasping for breath. Needless to say there were a bunch of scared classmates.

Who could forget the day when the white horse driven by Harold and Marlene Messenger had its tail neatly removed by one of the boys, leaving the horse with a real short "hair do". I thought the tail should go home with the horse, so I found a piece of twine in the barn, and tied the tail back on, not really expecting that the dangling hair piece would ever make it out of the school yard. Mrs. Messenger admitted she was just a bit angry to see the horse coming into the yard with the tail dangling by a string.

We used to play in the bush on the Tweidt farm cornering the school grounds. This one winter day we had built a fire and when the bell rang for class, after the noon hour, we all panicked and threw snow on the fire to put it out. This proved to be a mistake, because the smoke just billowed up through the trees, notifying the teacher of our whereabouts. That ended our activities outside the school fence. I can remember one long afternoon, sitting on the sunny side of the woodpile, trying to dry out, after getting soaked in the dugout.

It was the habit of the pupils in the winter months to bring a can or thermos of soup to school. One day Marion Allan was going to heat her can of soup on the stove, it was in a jam or syrup can and the lid was on tight, suddenly there was an explosion that almost rocked the school, the lid was blown off the can and every drop of soup was on the ceiling.

I remember playing prisoners base and round base with some of my classmates, Ray Schau, Jean Evenson and Eileen Leepart. I now live in Wadena married to Ann Gortzen, formerly of Tabor, Alberta. We have three children and I have a moving van as well as driving a school bus - no wonder looking back, I can now appreciate the antics of school children.

June (Austring) Spady

I started school at Westport near Wadena, where I spent one month before moving to Hendon in November 1937. I started school at Rotnam. At that time there were seven Austring children attending Rotnam School. I can recall the seven of us arriving at the school for the first time and being starred at by the other students. It would have been a much more scary experience had I not had so many brothers and sisters with me.

The next eleven years were spent at Rotnam. The outstanding events were the Christmas concerts and the school picnics at the end of each school year. I can still taste that homemade ice cream.

For grades XI and XII I attended a Christian High school at Two Rivers Bible Institute. After completing high school, Sybil Garrison (Weinmaster) and I went into nurses training at Yorkton General Hospital from 1950 to 53. I then nursed in Wadena Union Hospital from 1953 - 1955.

Bible school was next in my preparation for becoming a medical missionary. Thus, I spent 1955 to 58 at the Prairie Biole Institute. From there I went to Bozeman, Montana, where I met Jim Spady. We were married in August 1963. In June 1966, we went to Nigeria as missionaries with the Sudan Interior Mission and spent the next twelve years there. In June 1978 we returned to the U.S.A. and Jim is now administrator of a forty bed Nursing Home at Broadus, Montana.

We have three sons, David age 15, Dale 14 and Tim 11. All in all, I have covered many miles since my days at Rotnam school but fondest memories will live on forever. I have enjoyed a very rich and full life. God is so good to them that put their trust in Him.

Herbert Booth Family

Herbert and Laura Booth, along with their three sons, Aubrey, Alvin and Garnet moved to the Meadow Bank district in the spring of 1938. They came to the former Carl Peters ranch. The location of the farm is SW 30-36-12 W2nd.

The Booths originally came from Ontario and lived in various parts of Saskatchewan. Prior to moving to the Meadow Bank district, they farmed north of Kelvington.

Both Herbert Booth and Laura Hawkins came from farms in Ontario. Herbert was of English descent and Laura, Scottish. They were married in Ontario and had five children; three sons, Alvin, Aubrey and Garnet, and two daughters Irene, Mrs. Lawrence of Thorsby, Alberta and Merle, Mrs. Crawford of Regina.

Herbert Booth Family continued

Mr. and Mrs. Booth moved to Kelvington to retire in 1954. Garnet and his wife Agnes, reside on the home farm with their three daughters, Marilyn presently of Saskatoon, Lorraine in Grade XI and Michelle in Grade X at the Kelvington High School.

## Albert Bjerke Family

Submitted by daughter Olga Murray.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Bjerke were both born in Norway and later came to the U.S.A., where they were married.

Albert came to Canada while still single, and worked on the railroad and in logging camps. He homesteaded north of Wadena on the SW¼, 36,12. While living there the five children attended Duck Creek School. It was a long walk of six miles, so it is no wonder some of them became discouraged and left school before the age to do so.

In the early days the horses were worked all day in the fields, so most people were great walkers, especially our family. They walked many miles attending Church services at the home of Helmer Wickstrom.

Some years later, Albert acquired land at Stove Creek, north of Lintlaw.

Albert Bjerke passed away and was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Hendon. Mother and Carrie walked to Hendon, carrying their garden tools to tend the grave. Sister Annie took care of Mother until she passed away.

Submitted by Dan Bjerke

My father, Albert Bjerke was a school teacher, teaching languages in Delwich, Minnesota. He sailed a lot in Norway. He met and married Olivia Erickson, and later moved to the Duck Creek area on a farm. They had five children, Carrie, Annie, Daniel, Olga and Henry.

Albert farmed his land with horses and whatever machinery they had. It was six miles to walk to school, I didn't like to walk so far, so as a result I didn't like school. I would have liked to have buses to ride like they have now. School teachers that I remember were Mrs. Palm, Mr. Lowen and Mr. MacKenzie. My best friend was a Negro boy, Columbus Skinner, whose Mother and Father farmed in the area too. They moved back to the U.S.A.

My Father used to fire guard the school grounds. Times were hard, not much money, people lived from farm produce and gardens. Many had to go to work at an early age.

Bjerke Family continued

I went to Alberta to logging camps, this was a new kind of experience for a young fellow.

My sister Annie, married Andrew Nielson of Swan River, Manitoba. Olga married Lachlan Murray of Port Coquitlam, B.C. Carrie was never married and passed away in 1976. Henry the youngest was killed overseas in 1953, in World War II. He was in the Second Division Highlanders, Eight Army.

It is hard to remember, it was a long time ago.

## Fred Burge family

Submitted by Mary Burge

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Burge came to Canada from Dorset, England in 1906. Mr. Burge worked in Yorkton until 1910. That year he came to the Meadow Bank district, and filed on a homestead, the SW¼ 16, 36, 12. On this land he built a frame house and did the required homestead duties, breaking thirty acres in three years in order to "prove" or obtain the title.

He also built a log barn, but as often the case, he was unable to get water that was fit to drink and never did have a dependable supply of good water.

He bought a team of oxen from Yorkton, 2500 and 2200 pounds, so they could really pull a load, especially poplar roots. They would look around as though laughing when the double trees broke.

In 1919 he bought Bill Young's quarter, SE 16, 36, 12 and then SE 17, 36, 12. The Meadow Bank Post Office was at the Burgess home from 1911 to 1919 and at that time the Rural Route was established with the mail driver delivering mail to boxes along the route from Wadena to Kelvington. Carl Patrick was the last mail man on the route, driving through all kinds of weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Burge had one daughter, Mary or Dolly as she is fondly called. She and her parents moved to Wadena on retirement in 1952. They bought a home just south of the town. They both passed away in 1955. Dolly still lives in that home, visiting others and more than willing to give a helping hand to any of her neighbors.

Mary, the committee has given you the paragraph in a word of Thanks.

## Axel Carlson Family

Submitted by Ruby Johnson.

Axel was born in Bjornlunda, Sweden, in December, 1880. In 1908, as a young man he came to Canada, settling in Manitoba.

Axel Carlson family continued

Later he came to the Wadena district and in 1912 he took up his homestead on the SW¼ 12, 35, 13. That same year Axel returned to Sweden to bring his bride, Hulda, back to the homestead.

Axel, with his dry wit was always a welcome guest, and added spice to any get-together. He was one of the early trustees of the Rotnum school, although they were never fortunate enough to have children of their own to attend that school. However they were able to give of their love and opened their home to other small children.

Magna was five years old when she came to live with them. She attended school at Rotnum, but unfortunately in 1927, she became ill and passed away within a short time at the age of fourteen.

Later Ruby Wickstrom came to live with them and attended Rotnum School in 1935. She later married a Rose Valley farmer, Magnus Johnson and they are now retired and live in town.

Her sister, Birdie, also spent some years with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlson will be remembered for owning one of the first classy Model T Ford coupes in the district.

In 1949 the Carlsons returned to Bjornlunda, Sweden to live. Axel passed away in 1958 and Hulda in 1967.

## Ole Christianson Family

Submitted by Violet Brady

My parents, Ole and Nettie Christianson, were both born in Norway. Father's name was Alfred, but everyone called him Ole. They emigrated from Norway to the Langham area, and later to the Hendon district. They took up residence on Sec. 23, 36, 13, and continued to farm which was the only occupation Father had been interested in since a boy.

Allan and I were the only children. While I would not remember, I have since learned that Mrs. Sven Torgerson was the midwife who assisted at my birth. The Torgersons were our neighbors for many years.

My brother and I have both attended Rotnum School, and I have memories of riding a white horse named Daisy. Some of my classmates were Eileen and Margaret Evenson, Alida, Luzella and Evangeline Mahlum, Sybil Garrison and Francis Kiland.

I married Kirk Brady of Aylsham and we have four children. We now live in Saskatoon. Allan married Eunice Kidd and has three daughters.

## John Coates Family

John William Coates came to Canada in 1913. In 1916 he joined the 22nd. battalion in Winnipeg and served overseas. After his discharge from the Forces in 1922, he came to Kelvington and settled on a farm in the Meadow Bank area. In 1923 he married Florence Carr of England, in Wadena. They had two sons, Edward Joseph and Raymond Derrick. On December 16, 1939, Florence died following a short illness. She played a very active roll in the Ladies Aid and was a very dear friend to all the people she came in contact with.

Edward married Merle Griffith of Wadena on his return from service overseas in the Second World War and is now farming the old homestead. Raymond lives in Yorkton.

In 1941, Jack married Christina Beaton of Bladworth. They had five children, Isabelle, Saskatoon; Eldon, Kelvington; Anne (Mrs. Bob Moyes) Estevan; Carol (Mrs. Larry Miller)and Wayne, both living in Cranbrook, B.C.

Jack Coates passed away on October 6, 1974 and was buried in Kelvington. Christina lives in Kelvington.

## Ted Coates

Submitted by Teddy Coates

Edward Joseph Coates (Teddy) was born while the Jack Coates family lived on the Miller farm, the present John Minken farm. Later the family purchased the Sanford farm and moved there.

On leaving school Teddy had an interest in farming and as a result he worked in the Meadow Bank and Kelvington areas on several farms.

In the year 1944, he enlisted for service overseas with the Regina Rifle Regiment. He returned in the year 1946 to the Meadow Bank area, and purchased the former Art Nystrom farm near his Dad's and began farming.

Ted and Merle Griffeth of Wadena were married in 1952 and they have two children, a son Randy and a daughter Florence and a grandson Jody.

Randy is presently employed in Edmonton and Florence (Christianson) resides on a farm west of Hendon. They have a son Jody.

In 1956, Teddy purchased his father's farm and lived there for ten years. He then purchased the Fred Prybilski farm and is now residing there. He has been a councillor for the R. M. of Sasman for a number of years. Raising Angus cattle has been one of his interests for quite sometime along with having an interest in 4-H Club activities.

Ted Coates continued.

Here is a typical scene in the days long ago. This is Mrs. Coates and her two small sons helping with the threshing. To some of us these were the times to look forward to. I can't help but think that it must have been hard work, Mothers had to take their children with them to the fields and barns, as they had to do the chores while the man was harvesting.

Mrs. Coates was an avid quilter, she stitched along with the rest of the ladies. They found this a very good way to get together and visit.

Raymond Coates

Raymond Derrik Coates was born while the Jack Coates family lived on the Miller farm. After leaving school he worked on several farms in the Meadow Bank and Kelvington areas.

He farmed the Co ates home place for three year, 1956-59, then worked in Lockie's Tire shop in Kelvington for three years. The Shop was sold and Raymond worked under the new management until 1963. He moved to Yorkton and worked for Kelly Springfield Tire until 1977. He was employed on a farm near Yorkton for two years.

He is presently working for the city of Yorkton.

Raymond and his wife Laura live at 37 Myrtle Avenue, Yorkton. They make their annual journey to the Meadow Bank district for visiting and get-togethers.

# Ernest Davis Family

Submitted by Mary Leitch

Ernie or "Pop" Davis as he was fondly called, came with his wife from Ogema, Saskatchewan, in the 1910's. He lived on the NE¼, 7, 16, 12, near the Rotnum School.

They had one child, an adopted daughter Margaret, now Mrs. Fred McLeod of Parkvilla, B. C.

Mr. Davis was a self trained veterinary. In the 1930's there was an outbreak of sleeping sickness among the horses and he managed to save the lives of many of these horses by his treatments. Every day he would make his rounds with a team and Bennett buggy.

As their home was within walking distance of Rotnum school, many teachers made this home their boarding place.

Pictured here is one of the teachers that stayed at the home of the Davises. Many a happy hour was spent at the side of the old pot bellied stove, there would be a chair on each side of the comfortable warmth. Mrs. Davis liked her work around the kitchen, she went about her chores with a happy, cheerful smile.

Neighbours and friends remember their dog named Mickie. He was so well trained, he was able to save Mr. and Mrs. Davis a lot of steps. He would bring his own food dish as well as the one for the cats. If Mr. Davis needed a hammer or wrench, he would call out and Mrs. Davis would hand the tool over to Mickie to be delivered.

Mickie

Mr. Davis loved children, and always carried peppermint candy in his pocket to share with them.

Their greatest recreation was a good game of crokinole, which with all the practice he had, he could just about beat anyone.

They were just one of the many neighbors that we had around the area that gave everyone many happy memories.

When the time came for retirement, they moved their house into Hendon and both passed away a few years later.

## Alfred Derbyshire Family

Submitted by George Derbyshire

Alfred Derbyshire and his wife were both born in England. Alfred was orphaned when he was six years old, and was raised by Dr. Benardos Homes in London. When he was sixteen years old he was sent to Canada to the Benardo farms at Russell, Manitoba.

He stayed in the Russell area until 1905 when he came to Saskatchewan and took a homestead in the Nut Lake district. He filed on the NW¼ 2, 38, 12.

Edith Davies came to Canada in 1911 and married Alfred Derbyshire in 1915. George and Gertrude were born on the homestead at Nut Lake.

In 1919 Mr. Derbyshire drove a school van for the Batestown School district, making the round trip every day from Nut Lake to Kelvington, as there was no school at Batestown at that time.

About 1920, he sold the homestead to the Soldier Settlement Board, and bought the SW¼ 22, 37, 12 from Martin Burman. There Lila, Jessie and Jim were born.

This farm was surrounded by schools, all at least five miles from our home. There were children from close to home going to Duck Creek that was where we attended, it was five miles from home. I must say we did not learn very much. As a small child, riding five miles on an old pony, we were too tired to study.

I still remember my first teacher, Henry Lowen, he was a good teacher, but very strict. I was scared stiff most of the time. Then we had Percy Heffren, we got along good with him, but we did not learn too much, as we were still too tired. Then there was Mrs. Palm, she was a very good teacher and we got along good with her.

It is nice to meet and visit with the people I went to school with at Duck Creek. Some of them are away from home or this area, but they do get back at times and it is great to visit with them.

In 1928, Brand school was built just one mile from our home, we were happy to attend so close to our home.

I started farming on my own in 1931, in the Brand district. I married Clarice Watt in 1939, and we moved to the Batestown district in 1941 and farmed there until 1976 when we sold the farm and retired in Kelvington.

We raised a family of five, two girls and three boys.

## Alexander Donald Family

Alexander (Sandy) Donald was born in Keith, Scotland in 1854. He was a baker by trade, serving four years as an apprentice. He went to sea as an assistant steward for two or three years following his apprenticeship.

At the age of nineteen he emigrated to Canada, landing at Halifax, Manitoba, in August 1873. He stayed as a farm worker until the early summer of 1874, earning $10.00 a year.

Sandy, Scott Branscomb and Jim Broad (who was later killed in the war of 1914), answered the call "to go west young man, go west". He filed on his homestead, Sec.28-18-2 and during that summer they built sod shacks, returning to Halifax for the harvest. In the summer of 1875, the same three bachelors arrived in Wadena by rail. They pooled their resources and bought a team of oxen for $140.00, harness for $7.00 and a warm gear for $ 7.00. At Skinner's store they bought a stove, three axes and a provisions which consisted of flour, oatmeal, baking powder, lard and syrup. The store keeper asked what price? The boys had one object in view and their answer was "the cheapest you've got!" Next they went to the bush to make a hut from poplar poles for their warm gear. They were all loaded and set out for their homesteads. However it rained for two days, the first night on the road they crawled into a haystack, wet clothes and all, to try to get some sleep. They spent the night peeking out of holes looking for daylight. They were thankful for the haystack as what blankets they had were covering their flour and oatmeal. The trip itself was quite an ordeal. The team of oxen were green and would head for the biggest slough to get away from mosquitoes. They had to get into the slough themselves and use brute strength to get the oxen back on the trail.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald

It took two days to arrive at the spot where they had built their shacks the previous year, only to find them demolished by herds of cattle, belonging to ranchers in the area. The animals had raided them trying to brush off the mosquitoes, which were literally in clouds in those days.

The whole countryside was bush and slough. However there was dry land in between, and they proceeded to build shacks on their respective homesteads, three in all, one for each of them. They were built with poplar poles standing upright, 10'x 12', with a sod roof. They lathed them with willows and plastered them with clay. They thought they had done a tremendous job as they had only hammer, nails and an axe.

Alex Donald Family continued

Upon returning to their homesteads the following spring, they found, much to their disappointment, the rains had washed away a lot of the clay and there were holes throughout. Next they built a shed for the oxen on Scott Branscombe's place, and proceeded to break five acres on each homestead. Now the task to put up hay to winter the oxen. They borrowed a scythe from a neighbor. For forks they went to the bush and got willows with two prongs, peeled and dried them. These,they used for stacking hay.

The fall of 1906 - 07 settlers poured into the country. Every homestead that was surveyed at that time was taken. Many of these first settlers did not stay, but moved out for what they hoped were greener pastures.

The winters of 1906 - 07, they spent on their homesteads after returning from the harvest in Manitoba. Hopefully with enough money to carry them through the winter and summer. During those early days they thrived on duck eggs in the early summer and rabbit stew in the winter. That first winter they bought a quarter of beef. Having no better place to store it they put it on top of the sod roof. The sparrows and woodpeckers roosted on it,as well as the wind blowing and covering the beef with dirt from the sod. The meat was black, sun-burned and gritty. They ate it, grit and all, rationalising that if grit was good for hogs, a little wouldn't do them any harm.

Before they could haul firewood a sleigh had to be built from poplars. They used this sleigh for two or three winters. In order to earn money for the coming season, Dad spent several winters in the bush, approximately eighty miles north, working for the Red Deere Lumber Company. The wages were $16.00 to $30.00 a month. If your work was not satisfactory you were fired and someone else took your place. At best, you could expect hay for a bed, and supply your own blankets with lots of lice thrown in as a bonus.

In 1907, Dad and Jim Brand bought a team of horses which had been shipped into Elfros with some settler's effects. That was the last of the oxen. In the summer of 1912, he built one of the first frame buildings, it consisted of two rooms. That winter he went back to Scotland. He said he was prospecting for a different kind of a partner, he met the girl of his dreams, Catherine Leader. At Kirkfield Farm, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Harrison they were married on April 13, 1914. Dad made his own wedding cake.

Catherine Donald was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1894. Before emigrating to Canada she worked in a shop in Edinburgh where they sold golf equipment. She earned eight shillings a week. She had her twentieth birthday on the ship coming to Canada. There were other brides also sailing to the new land to be married. The voyage was very rough, as they were tossed from side to side nearly everyone suffered from sea sickness. One girl remarked,"all this for a man".

Alex Donald family continued

Upon arriving at Wadena, Dad met Mother with a team and sleigh. It was the spring of the year. For twenty miles they criss-crossed around sloughs, picking their way across the prairie. Mother thought these were very funny roads. Having lived all her life in the city, she had very little knowledge of her future as a homesteader's wife. She had never even seen bread baked, but Dad soon taught her. She became a very good cook.

By this time they had a three roomed house, seven head of cattle and a team of horses. There was no well on the farm so for seven years it was necessary to use water from the lake, hauling it for the livestock. Water for the calves and household use was obtained by melting snow in tubs on the stove. Clothes were washed on a board without a wringer. In the summer the water was often hard and had to be softened with ashes. There were no neighbors for miles, weeks would go by without seeing another woman. Being accustomed to the hustle and bustle of the city, Mother found the silence of the prairie over-powering, silence being broken only by the howl of a coyote.

Grain had to be hauled to Wadena. Dad would leave home very early in the morning, before daylight, having loaded the night before. He wouldn't return until after midnight, but Mother always waited up for him and had a hot meal ready. In order to keep warm the men usually walked or ran behind the sleighs. However, one neighbor, Elif Linden, always sat in the sleigh box, and endured the cold. My dad asked him why he didn't get off to walk, he replied, "I'd rather sit and freeze like a man than run behind like a dog".

There were no doctors for miles and no hospitals. A midwife, Mrs. Otter, attended our Mother for the first two children, namely Rena and Kenneth. Muriel, Wilma, Jean and Stuart were born in Wadena.

As time went on Dad purchased five other quarters of land, raised a fair sized herd of cattle and owned from twenty to thirty horses. In later years he had a herd of purebred Jersey cows, milking ten to fifteen cows daily. We girls always said, Dad made good use of his daughters for as the last one left home he bought a milking machine.

Dad remained on the farm almost sixty years. He saw many changes, from oxen to horses, cars, tractors, threshing machines and combines. He, like the other pioneers worked hard and at times faced many hardships and set-backs, but faced each day with courage and determination. His motto was, "Persevere, for perseverence overcometh difficulties", This must have been the motto of most of the pioneers for without perseverence they would not have remained to develop this country as it is today.

Dad passed away in 1963. After Stuart's death in 1972, Mother was unable to live alone on the farm. In 1973, the farm was sold to Elmer Bowen. Having lived fifty-nine years in the same place, seeing her children born and raised there, having planted and

Alex Donald family continued

watched so many trees grow to maturity,it was not easy for Mother to leave so many memories behind. But her pioneer spirit prevailed, she moved to a new home in Kelvington, where she still resides.

Submitted by Rena (Donald) Bien

Rena was born on the SE¼ 28, 36, 12, eldest of the Sandy Donald family.

In the spring of 1922, Mother took four of us children home to Scotland for one year. I started to school at Dr. Bell's in Edinburgh, which is still being used as a school. My attendance was poor as I seemed to catch everything, measles etc. ending up with bronchial pneumonia.

On our return in 1923, Kennie and I started to school at Duck Creek. Archie Seed drove our horse and buggy to school, until we were able to handle a horse. One day after we were driving ourselves, two horse back riders raced up behind, scared our horse and it ran away. Kennie fell out of the buggy, the wheel went over his neck. After that he was called "Rubber Neck".

My first teacher was Mr. Philben, followed by Henry Lowen, Miss McLellan, Mrs. Palm, who taught the boys and girls to knit. Mr. McKenzie who got the girls to pick wild flowers and grasses to send to his lady friend. In return she sent a large box of home baking. We got a holiday from school to have a picnic. Along came the School Inspector. I never heard what his report was. This teacher was followed by Mona McKay who we all liked very much. I wrote my Grade VIII then.

One of the highlights of our school years was our annual Christmas Concert. We all got new dresses, our hair curled. We especially looked forward to Santa Claus coming, he was played by Mr. John Lancley, the best ever.

Some of the pupils I remember were Archie Seed, Sam and Albert Lancley, Mac and Connie Jones, Frank Johns, Phyllis, Leighton, Percy and Thurlow Gowan, Alma and Phillip Drummond, Eleanor and Ern Fuller, Carrie,Annie and Dan Bjerke, Irene Niel, Caroline, John and Edith Koch, Millie Sanford, Dorothy Weaver and Cora Lindsay, Phyllis and Bert Parish.

The older boys gave me a rough time chasing me with dead gophers and mice. We competed each other on having the best garden, they were grown on the fire guard. Some of the games I remember were Fox and Geese out in the snow and Pump, Pump, Pull Away.

Rena (Donald) Bien continued

I stayed home for several years. Our pleasures were Church, Young Peoples, Ladies Aid, putting on plays, dances, quilting bees and visiting.

In 1939, I married Herb Bien, who came to the district as a hired man from Shamrock. Our first home was in Flin Flon where we lived until 1947. While in Flin Flon we adopted our daughter Dianne Thompson who lives at Meadow Lake. She has two daughters, Tannis and Dara.

After leaving Flin Flon we came back and built a house in Dad's yard. In 1951 we moved to Hendon where Herb was Co-op Manager until 1975. We spent our spare time, the last two years, building our retirement home in Kelvington, where we now reside.

Submitted by Kenneth Donald.

Kenneth (Ken) Donald was born May 24, 1917, second in a family of six, to Mr. and Mrs. Sandy Donald of the Meadow Bank district.

He attended Duck Creek School from 1923 - 31, later remaining at home to help with the work on the farm of which there was plenty. They often worked three outfits of horses in the fields at one time. In time Ken and his brother Stuart gradually took over the farm work. Ken purchased land of his own, but remained at home.

In 1954, he met and married Mrs. Irene Zimmer (nee Hagen) of Rose Valley. He moved to the Nut Lake district, where they still live and are active in mixed farming. Ken learned to love horses at a very early age, and they became his hobby, he still raises a few good horses to enjoy.

In 1955, their son Allister was born, making a family of five children. They are all on their own now, but come home often to visit, much to the joy of their parents.

Their family consists of Dianne and Mark Thorpe and Shanha of Regina; Gary and Maureen Zimmer, Cameron and Patrick of Warman; Maureen and Bob Schindelka of New Westminster, B.C; Bartley and Nicole Zimmer and Chantal of Saskatoon and Allister of Saskatoon.

The Ken Donalds live on S.W. 22, 38, 12.

Submitted by Muriel (Donald) Geck

Remembering back to school years can be very vague in places, and prominent in others. Travelling the three miles to Duck Creek School will never be forgotten, the dirt roads and mud, trails through fields and pastures, the sloughs and the snowbanks during winter months. Sometimes we walked or drove a horse or team, whichever was available.

Muriel (Donald) Geck continued

If we had one horse, it was hitched to buggy or toboggan,or a team, they were hitched to a cutter or sleigh, and we picked up the neighboring kids along the way. Under these travelling conditions it was not without many mishaps and frost-bites. Having an upset in the snow banks was not unusual, the horses running off or a break down. Thanks to good neighbors along the way, Lindens, McInnises, or Mr. and Mrs. Paul Mack, (they lived just north of the school), they would come to our rescue.

When walking home from school, through Mrs. Fegolin's yard, (now Charlie Irving's) she would often give us something to eat, sometimes in exchange for picking up her axe or hoe left in the long grass as she was afraid of snakes. Mrs. McInnis would often have a slice of freshly baked bread all prepared, it was delicious. During wild berry season, enroute home, we would head for McInnis's chokecherry patch. Berries have never compared with those, filling our pockets and stomachs, always knowing our mother would chastise us, the stained teeth and clothing was a give-away, impossible to hide.

The one incident which remains very clear in my mind was the day Drummond's team ran off. Rena and I were catching a ride to the north corner on our way home from school, with Alma and Phil. Alma drove a snappy team of blacks on the buggy. We were standing behind the seat, going at a great speed with others following behind. Going through a low spot the pole of the buggy dropped down and ran into the ground, throwing the buggy in the air, landing upside down. The team took off and ran away home. Phil was thrown into the air and was knocked unconscious, the kids all assembled around poor Phil, waiting for him to revive. They had all forgotten about me until someone saw my feet sticking out from under the buggy, the wind had been knocked out of me, so I was unable to holler "help". Sam Lancely and Irene Neil were following behind with one horse on a cart. I think Sam took us home and McInnises were notified, they took Phil and Alma home. Within the last two or three years, Phil and I were recalling this incident. Phil didn't get back to school for two weeks and as he said, "I've never been right since".

On returning home after my first day at school, I remember telling my parents that there was a man going to school. The man was Leighton Gowan, with his black velvet cap I thought he was just too big to be attending school. Also the other pupils would sit me up on a desk at recess and noon hour, asking questions to hear me speak, and then laugh at my Scotch accent. So we girls spent much time checking up on each other, correcting our pronunciation to the Canadian way. We didn't do as well with Ken.

If I'm not mistaken my first school teacher was Percy Heffern or Henry Lowen, and his carrying me through the water which he thought was too deep for me or my footwear. There was Mrs. Palm who taught all us kids, boys as well as girls, how to knit scarves and mitts during cold spells when it was too frosty to play outside at noon hour and recess. To this day I'm still knitting them as taught by her.

There are wonderful memories of Mona McKay's teaching years with us. I was in grade four on her arrival. One big achievment, she managed to stop me chewing my finger nails, I admired her nails so much and would think, "if I could only have finger nails and polished like Miss McKay's". Possibly it was my age during her teaching years with us, but I always thought she was quite special, and all our good old Christmas concerts, and our anticipation for Santa Claus. Mr. Lancely played the part, and no one was ever able to replace him.

The last two years at Duck Creek School, I was able to take grades 9 and 10 by correspondence, Eva Harrison and Mr. and Mrs. Bordsen helped me whenever I was in need of assistance. I went to Wadena High School for grades 11 and 12. I boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Scott Branscombe, they were memorable years.

After completing High School, I was off to work, mostly clerking and office work for Burns Company. In 1948, I married Norman Geck, we farm south of Kelvington and have one son, Grant, who is at home farming.

Submitted by Wilma (Donald) Lovdahl

My years as a student at Duck Creek numbered more than the average student, for not only did I take grades 1 to 8, but I took grades 9, 10, and 11 by correspondence. However, my association with Duck Creek didn't end there. For each year till I was married, I helped the teachers with their annual Christmas Concerts.

My memories of those years are many; some happy, some sad, some humorous and some "just are".

How well I remember our recess and noon hour softball and football games. It must have been "Tackle Football" for as I can recall, I usually ended up on the bottom of the heap. When the noon bell rang we would all troop in covered with snow from head to toe. There was always "Pump, Pump, Pull-away", "Prisoner's Base", "Fox and Goose", or "Last Couple Out".

Our modes of travel were varied, depending on the season. Generally in the winter, it was horse and toboggan, but when there were four of us attending school, we drove a team and cutter. My brother Ken delighted in taking us at top speed over the pitch holes, more than once leaving the cutter box behind, much to the annoyance of Dad who would have to repair it. In the spring the roads would be breaking up, so we had to ride horseback for two or three weeks. Not only did we have to carry our own lunch, but feed for our horses and any books we may have. These we used to put in a bag, usually a sugar bag and tie it around our necks and shoulder. We always made a big deal about our horses needing water at noon from a nearby slough. This was a good excuse for a horse race back to school. The competition was keen and the winner carried a lot of prestige. Sometimes we walked to school a

distance of three miles and sometimes we had a cart or buggy. Everyone had a school horse.

Many a winters day we would arrive at school with frozen faces and frozen dinners. I can remember toasting our sandwiches on the stove poker to thaw them out. Sometimes each family would take turns to bring a gallon of milk which we would heat in a kettle of hot water to make cocoa. On the really cold days we would all sit around the heater, roasting one side and freezing the other. The pupils whose desk was nearest the heater were always assured at least of a hot neck and back. Our fingers would be so numb we couldn't write till the school house warmed. The winter of 1933-34 was extremely cold. Clothing was not like it is now. There were no parkas, I wore a pair of felt socks, with at least three pair of woollen ones inside so my feet were warm. I froze my face everyday for three weeks. In spots my skin was like leather. There were only five pupils at school for those three weeks. Looking back I'm not sure if we were the tough ones or the foolish ones, I doubt very much if we acquired much knowledge those cold days.

I went right from Grade 1 to 6 with Mona McKay as my teacher. She left our school in midterm and well I recall that day. All the girls were crying. I think we thought we were loosing our mother. Miss McKay even kissed the boys good-bye. What a dramatic day! No one ever kissed anyone at school.

After I completed high school, Joyce Maynes taught Duck Creek for two years. We established a lifetime friendship. I was helping my parents on the farm those years, for it was war time and help was hard to get. The many activities Joyce and I thought up by way of entertainment. We had a saying "at least we are original".

Each winter the young people of the district would put on a three-act play. Our star comedian was 'Harry Linden'--even when he wasn't supposed to be funny. But when Joyce and I offered to hold up the blanket for him as a dressing room he protested profusely.

In June 1944, Nels Lovdahl and I were married at our home on the farm. We have three children, all living in British Columbia. David is an Engineer with the Ministry of Environment at Kelowna; Sandra married Paul Haugen, with the RCMP. Their home at present is in Terrace where she is nursing. Peggie married David Rusnell, who is also with the RCMP. For several years she taught primary grades in British Columbia, but is now devoting her time as a homemaker and mother. They have one small son, Quinn Alexander.

As one most logically recalls those school years, I suppose by today's standards they were hard. But, perhaps it wasn't all bad. We learned to cope with most anything the environment handed us and to make the best of it. I don't remember ever having to search for my identity-- I just was.

Wilma (Donald) Lovdahl continued

As I look back I realize what a large part the country school, our classmates and teachers played in our lives. We spent more awake hours in the schools than we did in our homes. Summing it all up....perhaps not too many of us became rich or famous, still I think not only Duck Creek #2002, but all similar country schools can nestle down in the annals of time and say "a job well done."

Submitted by Jean(Donald) Brownlee.

Jean is the fifth child born to Mr. and Mrs. Alex Donald. She grew up on the family farm in the Meadow Bank district and attended school at Duck Creek for grades one to ten. During those years my teachers were, Miss Harrison, Mr. Bordson, Miss Eskelson, Mr. Leitch and Miss Maynes.

We had a lot of good times at our country school and our annual Christmas Concert was the highlight of the year. Since this event took place in the Meadow Bank Hall, we were permitted to skip afternoon classes and go to the hall for a dress rehearsal.

In those years, children were undaunted by the severe winter weather, but then how could one feel cold while participating in a rowdy game of football or Fox and Goose. With the arrival of spring, came Arbor Day, when we spent the entire day in the school yard, planting trees and raking and cleaning. The big treat was roasting potatoes in the ashes of the bonfire--how good they tasted--even the burnt ones.

After completing my ten years at country school, I took my grade eleven and twelve in the Kelvington High School. Following my graduation I was employed at the Co-op Store in Kelvington and later at Al and Mary DeShaye's Ladies Wear.

In 1949 I married Ian Brownlee and since that time we have been farming. We have a family of three.

After graduating from High School, Bruce spent one winter working in British Columbia in a lumber camp, and several other winters working in the Northwest Territories with Oil Exploration. He now farms with Ian.

Shelley completed her grade twelve and spent one year at University, then worked in a Photo Studio and Nursing Home in Saskatoon. She married Russell Feairs and they have two children, Shayne and Marni.

Pattie is in grade eleven and upon completion of grade twelve plans to train in the vocation of her choice.

I am the "chief cook and bottle washer " at the Brownlee residence. Spring through fall, I serve as the official farm "Go-Fer" -- you know "go for" repairs, go for dinner, the fuel, the truck and auger, etc. etc.

Jean (Donald) Brownlee continued

My favorite summer pastime is gardening, in winter it is curling. Despite the ups and downs of farming, I love the country life and hope that I will never have to exchange it for a town or city life.

Mr. Jack Drummond

Mr. Drummond came originally from Bruce County in Ontario. He was one of a family of eleven. The Drummonds spent several years at Holland, Manitoba, where they farmed. Jack worked for thirteen years with his father and finally decided to come west and homestead in central Saskatchewan.

He came to Kylemore in 1905, to the home of his cousin, Mr. Dan Rankin. From there he came north to Henry Schmidts and located his homestead. He returned to Manitoba for the winter and came with three horses and implements to Wadena in 1906. He homesteaded on the NE¼ 16, 36, 12. He stayed with the Schmidts while he hauled lumber from Wadena to build his one room, fourteen foot, shack and barn. He bought the Pete Schmidts place and moved there and married Miss Mary Burman in 1913. Their four children were all born there. Their nearest school was Luck Creek and the older children were briefly enrolled there.

Mr. Drummond did his farming with horses and raised some very fine stock in his day. His farm was situated close to the probable location of the old Dominion Government Telegraph line, which was in operation through this country in the 1880's. The eastern section from Selkirk to Livingston, twelve miles from Pelly, was built and in operation by July 1876. The western section which passed directly through, south of Kelvington and Meadow Lake district, was completed to Leduke, Alberta by November of that year. It passed from Pelly through this area to Humboldt. Other near neighbors of Mr. Drummond, Jack Lanceley and the Gowans, have found unmistakeable evidence of this famous old line on their homesteads. Mr. Lanceley had one of the old insulators which carried the wire, and had at one time several of the handmade nails used in construction. He has plowed out pemmican and many other relics of the Indian People who once lived here before the homesteaders came, and is the local authority on matters pertaining to those early settlers. We quote Mr. Russell, in the "Carlton Trail" "Much trouble was experienced in keeping the line in operation. The eastern part passed through low marshy land and woods, and in the west, (which is our district) the buffalo pushed over many of the poles while rubbing their shaggy sides against them. At times prairie fires burned many of the poles. Then, owing to the change in the route of the CPR, the portion of the original line east of Humboldt was abandoned in 1881, and the new lines from South Qu'Appelle to Humboldt were completed in 1883.

Mrs. Drummond died and buried in the Kelvingrove Cemetery. Mr. Drummond retired to Kelvington, his two sons farm the original home.

Submitted by Dorothy Drew St Goddard (Evans)

I was born to Sam and Mary Rose Evans (Genaille) and one of eight children. My father farmed, and I with my older brother and sisters, attended Rotnum School. I also had a half-brother, Joe Gillis who never lived with us, but was raised by his grandparents. So never took the Evans name. His grandfather, Antoine Genaille, who raised him, was a kindly, unassuming man with great strength of character.

The following excerpts of Antoine's were submitted by Mr. Cliff Lee of Hendon.

Antoine was born in the year 1836 at Ile Le Crosse, he had a colorful life, hauling mail, freighting and was a factor at the Hudson Bay Post at Nut Lake, north west of Kelvington.

Antoine hauled mail from Fort Garry (Winnipeg) to Edmonton, also freighted the first Printing Press over the same route by dog team. He made trips with the mail on foot as a runner.

He was a man of great stamina, having broke trail for forty miles on snow shoes and made forty miles on trail with dogs in the one day.

One time a number of Hudson Bay men were going by sleigh from the Nut Lake Post to the Fort Livingstone Post, (Pelly). This time the trip was being made by horse and Antoine figuring the horses were too slow, decided to go on foot alone. When the party arrived with their horses, they were surprised to find that Antoine had arrived already at the post well ahead of them.

My father, Bob Lee, told me about Antoine freighting from Wadena to his Post by dogs. He would come the first ten miles to my dad's then tie up the dogs, the lead dog in one corner and the wheel dog in the other corner of the shack, that way there was no fight.

He served as a guide for the N.W.M.P. during the rebellion, while crossing the plains by buckboard during the rebellion, in the company of a Mr. Dewdney, they ran short of food, so Antoine killed a skunk. Mr. Dewdney did not relish the thought of eating a skunk, so declined but hunger got the best of him and he decided to try some.

About then the Indians spotted the buckboard and took after them. When the shooting began, Mr. Dewdney became frightened and crawled to the bottom of the buckboard, while Antoine handled the team with one hand and the rifle with the other.

This same Mr. Dewdney later became Lieut. Governor of Saskatchewan.

## Samuel Evans

Sam Evans came to the Rotnum District in the early 1920's or around 1919. He was very instrumental in helping to organize the Rotnum School District. Sam was the secretary of the committee to get the school built.

The family consisted of John, Dorothy, Gwen, Sam Jr., Bill, Lizzie, Mary and George.

They lived on Sec. SW 6, 36, 12. Mr. Evans was a veteran.

The family went to Duck Creek school.

## Anna Evenson Family

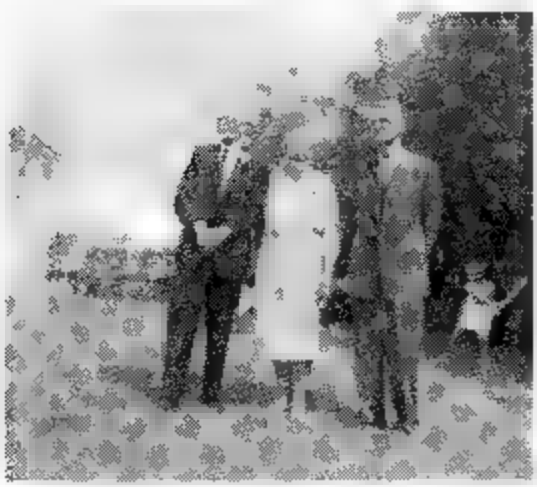
Mrs. Anna Evenson and three children, Edward, Clara and Bennie, moved to the district in 1912 and settled on the farm next to the Holstons, (NW 2, 36, 13). Bennie was about 12 years when they arrived. He attended school in Victoria Park for a time, then went back to Max, North Dakota, where he attended school and was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. He returned to his Mother's farm in Canada.

In 1924 Bennie Evenson and Dollie Halsten were married and lived on the Evenson farm. They bought the land in 1926.

Bennie served on the Rotnum School Board for many years. In those days the district people did the upkeep and repairs on the school in order to save money. Bennie spent many hours helping with this job. His wife had the job of scrubbing the floors for a year or more.

Dollie and Bennie attended the Lutheran Church and Dollie has always been interested and active in the Ladies Aid.

They had five children, Margret, Eileen, Gordon, Norman and Jean. They all had their elementary schooling at Rotnum, except Gordon who was an invalid from birth.



Anna's three children

Benny Evenson's family

Ben Evenson family continued

Margret Evenson became a teacher and has now taught at various places in Saskatchewan for thirty-one years. She married Lloyd Bucknum from Springside in 1951. They have one daughter Lynn of Edmonton, Alberta. Lynn remembers attending Rotnum School for one week while she visited her grandparents.

In 1965 Bennie Evenson was inatantly killed in a tractor accident, the family farm was purchased by Lloyd and Margret.

Dollie Evenson has her home in the same yard. Her home is the old Rotnum teacherage, but she had two rooms built on and has made other renovations. She lives here during the summers and spends her winters in Alberta and British Columbia.

Eileen Evenson worked as a telephone operator in Wadena and Canora for many years. She married Ernie Samuels of Canora in 1949. They have two daughters, Linda in Saskatoon and Cheryl of Kinistino. Eileen and Ernie have lived in Calgary for the past seven years. Eileen as done secretarial work since moving to Calgary.

Norman Evenson went to work on oil wells with his uncle when he left home. He married Maxine Carlson in 1959. They have two girls, Shannon and Charlene. They now live in Youbou, B.C., where Norman is employed at the plywood mill.

Jean Evenson went to Winnipeg to work, there she met and married Cecil Smith. They have six children, Cecil Jr., Gail, Dale, Donna, Lorne and Sandra. They have lived in Calgary for the past fifteen years or more.

The Evenson children all remember that 3½ mile walk to school. They walked in summer and in winter rode horseback, used a toboggan, rode on a stone boat, or in a cutter. Margaret and Eileen walked one whole winter.

## Flostrand Family

In 1927, Svein Flostrand was immigrated from Norway to the Rotnum district. In 1928, Arnie followed him. They both worked on elevator construction during the summer. They bought land, NE 11, 36, 13, and started farming.

In 1930, John Flostrand and father Hans arrived. They all lived on the farm together. In 1934 or 35, John and Svein moved away, and their father Hans, returned to Norway.

Arne married Mabel Lindstrom who had been a teacher at Rotnum School during 1932-33. They lived on the farm till 1938 when they sold to the Tweidt Brothers.

# Fuller Family

Submitted by Alice Mae Fuller

Father - Larry Fuller (English). Rancher in Chicago. Did not reside in Canada.
Mother - Alice Fuller (English). Nee Barber, Came from Chicago in the spring of 1913 with 3 small children.
Brothers - Lawrence Ernest Fuller
- Fuhrman Fuller (died in Chicago at 2 years of age)
Sisters - Helen Eleanor Fuller (Whyte)
- Rose Esther Burman (½ sister, Purves).

Farm location - four miles west of Kelvington

Schooling - Duck Creek. The teachers I remember are Mrs. Bob McGowan, and Mrs. Billy McQuarry. My school friends were Olive Gowan, Caroline Koch and Albert Lanceley. We travelled by horse and buggy four miles to school. I was good in spelling bees. Our first home had only two rooms.

Step Father - Martin Burman (Dutch American), farmer.

Submitted by Frazer Whyte for wife Eleanor

One of the very early settlers to homestead in the Meadow Bank district was Mr. James Brand who, with Mr. Alex Donald (Sandy), immigrated to Canada from Leith, Scotland. Jimmy, as he was known, filed on the SE¼, 4, 37, 12, W2. in 1906.

Neither of these gentlemen knew anything about farming, in fact, Jimmy was a sailor, and because of an eye injury, had decided to to leave the sea and come to Canada.

Their first log cabin was built on Sandy's quarter with logs perpendicular rather than horizontal, and the plastering left much to be desired.

He, like many others, spent the winters in logging camps on the Red Deer, to finance the next summer's farming. In 1915, he joined the 65th Battalion and was in the first draft that went overseas. He was killed on the Somme in 1916.

In 1917, his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Fraser Whyte, came from Brandon and took over the farm. In 1919 Mr. Whyte passed away, and Mrs. Whyte with her son, Fraser, moved to Wadena. The farm was then rented until 1926 when nephew, Fraser Whyte, took over. Fraser farmed it until 1973 with his wife Helen Eleanor Fuller, whom he married in 1934. She was the second eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Burman.

Fraser and Eleanor had a family of one son and four daughters. Fraser Jr. lives in Regina,where he met and married Wilma Beattinger. They have one son, Trevor and two daughters, Lisa and Tanya. Alice lives in Edmonton, she is married to Jack Thomas, formerly of Portage la Prairie. She met him while she was in nurses training there, They have a family of one son and four daughters, Bruce Colin, Darcy, Allanna and Wanda (twins), and Mallory. Joan lives in Regina where she met her husband, Bob Watson. They have their own business, Watson's Electric. They have one son, Lyle, and two daughters, Laurie and Sandra. Anita of Winnipeg is married to Edwin Bohn of that city, their family consists of two boys, Darren and Dalles. Then there is Mary, who has lived in Toronto for a number of years, where she met and married Mark Ely. They have a family of one son, Jason, and one daughter, Sherri-Anne. They have now moved to Winnipeg.

In 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Whyte retired and moved to Kelvington. Their retirement was saddened by the passing of Mrs. Whyte in the summer of 1975. Eleanor was born in the U.S.A., and came to Canada with her brother, Ernie, her sister, Mae, and mother. Mrs. Fuller who later married Mr. Martin Burman, was a sister of Mr. Ernie Barker, a Kelvington pioneer. Fraser was born in Edin borough, Scotland. He came to Canada in 1914 with his pioneer parents.

A matter of interest, in 1928 a school was built one quarter of a mile from Sgt. Brand's homestead and was named after him. It was later closed and moved into Kelvington and converted into a home.

Mr. and Mrs. Whyte

Jay Garrison Family

Submitted by Sybil (Garrison) Weinmaster.

Memories of Rotnum School #4347.

In the spring of 1936, I commenced Grade I at Rotnum. My hair was a swede blonde then and styled in ringlets created from winding the hair around a rag. My mother was an artist at this nightly task.

For the first day of school, I donned a navy serge skirt sewn by my mother, a red sweater, fawn cashmere ribbed hose, peach fleece lined bloomers (peach was my mother's favorite color), a navy chinchilla coat, red helmet and leather mitts complimented this outfit Lunch was packed in a Rogers syrup pail. Sandwiches were made of homemade bread, bulk cheese, bought from A.G.Anderson's Red and White store in Hendon, one orange or a few dates for a treat.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic were taught to six beginners by Don Leitch whom I'm sure we frustrated. By Friday he was ready to boil us in oil.

Sybil (Garrison) Weinmaster continued

Highlights of the season were the Christmas concerts, where every female student appeared in taffeta or satin with a starched ribbon in her hair. Halloween parties were fun and everyone came. Our annual summer picnics with races, ball games, and homemade ice cream were treats. School activities consisted of softball games, prisoners base, fox and goose, lightning anti-over. Friday afternoons we held a Red Cross program with students participating. I recited the following verse every Friday for six years, I'm sure:

Sing Blue Bird sing
A song of happy spring
The air is soft, the sky is blue
And flowers wait to welcome you
Sing Blue Bird sing.

On rainy days the cloak room took on the form of a ballroom. Eileen Evenson was the dance instructor. The doors to the classroom were carefully guarded, while Eileen and her students swayed to "Life in the Finland Woods". A lively Schottische or square dance usually resulted in another crack in the plaster.

With the arrival of spring came measles, whooping cough and chicken pox. Any chest complications of that era were effectively treated with Mrs. Harrison's goose grease. Also, by the end of the first week in school it was usually necessary to undergo Capitis Pediculus treatment, better known as delousing --- out came the coal oil and a fine tooth comb!

There were the visits from Sparks, the Superintendent. "Mr. Sparks" I mean. He appeared as a thief in the night, a tall, heavy gentleman who bore the appearance of a Sergeant Major. His favorite color must have been grey, because he appeared in a grey suit for ten years. Under his arm he carried a mysterious brief case or folder, and we younger students envisioned therein a loaded pistol, ready to roar at any moment. His visits consisted mainly of prowling up and down the aisles. This nerve wracking procedure carried on for thirty to sixty minutes. Long enough for everyone to dispose of their precious Watkins chewing gum -- a deathly silence prevailed. By the time he made his final round, and graciously shook the teacher's hand, we all had to go to the backhouse.

We lived two and a half miles from school. If the weather was decent, I walked. Modes of transportation varied. In winter I was usually driven by horse and cutter, toboggan or even a manure sled was used. In summer we used the horse and buggy.I was driven to Scramstad's corner, which is about half way to school, and walked from there.

In summer I always walked home. One evening on our way home from school, my friend Frances Kiland and I came to a tempting mud hole in front of Alex Weekland's gate. What a challenge, cross over or go around. Naturally we went through. Well, it was like quicksand. Frances disappeared up to her knees and lost her rubbers. We hunted, dug and probed, but to no avail. In her sock

Sybil Weinmaster continued

feet, Frances walked home. I shall never forget the look on Joe and Clara's faces. We looked as though we had been on a safari hunt for a week! Clara's sour cream cookies were extra good that day.

The annual school meeting was usually held every January in 50° below weather. The colder the better, for the air was hot. The conduct of this meeting was usually very spontaneous with the sense of much action, hiring, firing, suspensions were not unusual, all problems were publicly aired, no exception to the rule.

I remember Dad speaking of the school act - with his keen memory, he knew it backwards. Our mother, who was reserved and somewhat sophisticated, stayed home on these wild excursions. She did a crossword puzzle, providing there wasn't a hole in the mantle of the Alladdin lamp.

After finishing school at Rotnum, I went on to attend Wadena High, then to Two Rivers Bible Institute. In 1950, I entered nurses training at the Yorkton General Hospital. Stern discipline, long hours of study, macaroni and cheese for supper every other night were all a part of our nursing career. It has been a most satisfying profession. Immediately following graduation, I returned to Wadena to nurse with Dr. Rollins (our family physician) in the operating room. It was indeed a privilege to work with this keen surgeon, who made his diagnosis by look[illegible] in the sclera of the patient's eyes.

To bring this story to a perfect climax, I met a man while in nurses training. The only fellow who ever passed my father's careful scrutiny. We were married in the former Wadena Baptist Church on September 30, 1954. My husband, Mel Weinmaster, was born and raised in the Yorkton district and commenced his career in the retail business twenty-six years ago.

He managed a Safeway supermarket for sixteen years, it has been a rather demanding life, but he looks forward to an early retirement.

Mel has been a wonderful father and friend to our two sons. James Richard, age 22, attends the U of S in Saskatoon, College of Commerce. He loves politics, adventure galore, could travel forever, I'm sure. He is majoring in marketing, so perhaps this will afford him a few of his heart's desires.

Tim is our 18 year old who has finished his Grade XII, and is employed at Macdonald Consolidated Ltd. Unlike his brother, he is the conservative spender of the two and usually ends up financing his swinging older brother. We enjoy having Tim at home. He gets blamed for everything, but has not threatened to leave home yet. He has my father's keen wit and Grandpa Weinmaster's quiet personality.

I look back to my school days with a sense of pride and nostalgia. To celebrate this homecoming is truly an event of a life time.

To those of you who have worked so diligently to make this weekend a reality; thank you for keeping the banners of our Alma Mata flying.

In closing, I wish to pay special tribute to my late parents who pioneered in the Rotnum district. How thankful for parents who encouraged our education, who taught us honesty and responsibility. Their great wisdon and guidance has played such an integral part in the lives of our families.

Memories submitted by Leslie Garrison

These memoirs are an attempt to record chronologically a decade of history in rural Saskatchewan. A decade of pioneer history, within the context of the Rotnum School District. Fictionalization of character and events has been conscientiously avoided. Hence the descriptions, anecdotes, and references to my family, teachers and friends are, to the best of my knowledge and recollection, reliably factual.

The following pages are presented as a dedication to the memory of those pioneer farmers, including my parents, whose vision and sacrifice brought the Rotnum School District into being, to those teachers who gave unselfishly of themselves and their knowledge that I might be better educated, and lastly to my fellow classmates who provided me with keen academic competition within a wholesome social environment.

The Rotnum School District, like most of the school districts that were formed in the pioneer communities of Canada's Northwestern frontier, was composed of immigrants of various ethnic, cultural, and religious backgrounds. They were a hardy lot with ancestral roots in the British Isles, the Scandinavian countries, and Germany. Some of these pioneers came directly to Canada from Europe, while others, including my father, emigrated from the United States.

My father, Howard Jay Garrison was born near Fosston, in Cook County, Minnesota on September 19, 1888 to Hugh Garrison and Sarah Colter. Sometime after my father's birth and prior to 1900, the Garrison family moved to Appleton City, Missouri, where my grandfather was engaged in farming. However, he found it difficult to provide for his family from a farm that was dotted with hardwood stumps. I suspect, though I have no proof, that my grandfather moved to Missouri for my grandmother's health. She had contracted tuberculosis, and the rigors of the winters of northern Minnesota would have accentuated her problem. In any case, she passed away on the farm in Appleton City about 1900.

The loss of his mother made an indelible impression upon my father who was scarcely twelve years of age at the time. On a number of occasions, I recall, my father shared the simple, profound circumstances of my grandmother's death.

Leslie Garrison continued

The northwest beckoned my grandfather again. This time, however, it was the Canadian Northwest Territories. Peace had returned to the area following the Riel Rebellion in 1885. Now 160 acres of fertile land could be acquired as a "homestead". There were no hardwood trees or stumps to contend with, and moreover, transportation rates were kept low to encourage immigrants. Thus, in 1900, my grandfather Garrison, now a widower with six children, decided to move to Canada.

The plans for the trip were as follows, the younger children would travel on a passenger coach under the care of my father's eldest sister, Dora. My grandfather would ride in the box car with the farm equipment and household effects, just to make sure that all would go well. However, all did not go according to plan. As the box car jolted into motion, and as the train picked up speed, a young urchin emerged from hiding. It was my father. He had not taken kindly to the idea of being seperated from my grandfather for the duration of the trip. Moreover, he certainly was not about to miss the excitement of riding in a box car all the way to Canada. So, my father had stowed away among the personal effects. As I pen these lines, I cannot help but wonder what inner conflict of clinging to the land where their loved one had recently been laid to rest, and what hopes and aspirations for the future in Canada must have struggled for supremacy in their emotions as they shared that long and wearisome journey north.

In 1905, Saskatchewan entered the Confederation of Canada as a province. The following year, as soon as he had turned eighteen, my father treked about 120 miles northeast of Yorkton. Here some 15 miles north of what today is the village of Wadena, my father selected a homestead and filed a claim on the NW¼, 24,36,13. Grandfather Garrison homesteaded the adjoining quarter section of the land to the east.

Notwithstanding the hardships of frontier life, things were now beginning to look a little brighter for the Garrison family. My grandfather remarried while still in Yorkton. His second wife was a widow by the name of Jeannie Moore with a beautiful little daughter named Doris. She would one day become the wife of John Prouse of Kelvington.

In the meantime, a camaraderie developed between my father and his stepsister that would endure untarnished for the entire span of their lives. No doubt this feeling of kinship was cemented on those balmy spring days when the little girl with laughing eyes would climb on top of the drill box, sit down in front of my father, completely entrusting herself to his care as he sowed his field.

However for the pioneer, life's sweet experiences were frequently tempered with bitter ones. During the period that Grandfather Garrison made his headquarters in the Yorkton area a number of tragedies struck the family. First, it became apparent that my father's youngest brother, Russell would be a cripple for the rest of his life. Accidentally, he had been dropped as a baby, and he was now developing a severe case of curvature of the spine, along

with other complications. Then Mae, my father's youngest sister was suddenly stricken with diphtheria and passed away. And finally my grandfather fell victim to the harshness of winter in the Canadian Northwest. While returning from the woods with a load of firewood, he froze his feet. One foot had to be amputated. Winter wore into spring and spring into early summer as my grandfather convalesced in the Yorkton General Hospital. Finally, the long awaited day arrived in which he was to be discharged. Ironically, however, he succumbed to a heart attack on the very day he was to return home.

In 1911, another immigrant arrived in Yorkton. She was Mary Eliza Richards, a stonemason, and Sarah Lightfoot in St. Helens, near Manchester, England in 1888. This beautiful, petite, fine-featured, retiring young woman had travelled across the Atlantic, "steerage" class to be with her father who was living in Yorkton at the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Garrison

Subsequently, Mary Richards and her father moved to the Wadena area. Evan Richards, later to become the only grandparent I knew personally, purchased a half section of unimproved land from the Canadian Pacific Railroad. As I recall, his property was situated about a mile east of what today is the intersection of Highways # 35 and 49. My Grandfather Richards a very good natured, morally upright, jolly sort of individual. He was particularily fond of my sisters and me, and some of the happiest moments of my childhood were spent in his company. He had so much to share about his experiences in England, about relatives I had never seen, and about the Royal Family of whom I considered myself a loyal, devoted subject!

Mary Richards, my mother-to-be, received her first real introduction to pioneer life on the farm of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Otter. Here, some 25 miles northeast of Wadena, she learned the basics of pioneer baking and cooking, to be resourceful, "to make do with very little."

The tension of adjusting to a new way of life, and of learning new skills, was not without its moments of humourous relief. In this regard, one of my mother's favorite recollections of those days of initiation and apprenticeship concerns the first loaf of bread she baked for her aunt. To my mother's dismay it turned out to be almost indestructibly hard! Something had gone wrong, but there would be other opportunities to perfect her baking skills. In the meantime, my frugal English aunt decided that with a coat of shoe blackening the unyielding loaf would be "just the ticket" for a doorstop. And a doorstop it became, my mother would laugh and recall.

Leslie Garrison continued

With the improvement of her culinary skills, my mother decided to seek employment as a house maid. Her search for employment took her to Ruddell, near North Battleford. Here, she worked as a maid in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tyson for quite sometime. However, she had already made the acquaintance of my father at the Otter home.

In the meantime, the relationship continued to develop satisfactorily, thanks to his Majesty's postal service and a visit from my father. Dora, my father's oldest sister, had by this time married. Her husband was a good-natured, witty, little Irishman by the name of William Strain. Together, they had settled on a farm east of North Battleford. Thus, in a visit to the area, my father was able to "kill two birds with one stone."

Accordingly, on Sept.1, 1914, Mary Eliza Richards became the bride of Howard Jay Garrison. The brief ceremony was solemnized in Wadena, in the church building that later became known as the United Church. As my parents were leaving the church with their attendants, my mother's wedding veil caught on something and was torn. Noting my mother's predicament, my father turned to her and quiped, "Never mind, that will do for the baby's bonnet!"

The good neighbours of the area joined in the wedding celebrations with gifts and a country style dance. Whether this dance took the nature of the "shivaree" that newlyweds were customarily given in the pioneer communities in those days, I do not know. However, of this I am certain, my parents frequently referred to their wedding dance, and to one of their neighbours, Mrs. Dick Yee, who provided music by humming through a comb faced with tissue paper. During his bachelor days particularily, my father was frequently asked to call square dances, an activity which he thoroughly enjoyed and carried out with some expertise. Knowing my father, and knowing of his popularity in this regard, I strongly suspect that before the evening was over he had called some of the square dances at his own wedding party!

My mother had managed to save a scant $25.00 from her wages. This sum represented the total cash assets of my parents as they took upon themselves the rather formidable task of transforming a homestead into a farm, not to mention the added responsibility of feeding, clothing, and educating a family. But, like their neighbours, they exhibited a willingness to sacrifice and work together toward a common goal, namely - to raise a family of which they could be justly proud, and to achieve a measure of financial security.

In the course of time three children were born to this union. Howard Leslie Garrison, the writer, arrived on November 20, 1916 a few hours ahead of Dr. Rollins who had been summoned to my parents cabin home for the event. In the meantime, thanks to my great aunt, Mrs. Otter, my entrance into this world was uneventful. Subsequently, I acquired two sisters, Sarah Mabel, born March 29, 1919, and Sybil Mae, born April 11, 1929, both of whom made their debut via Wadena Union Hospital.

For a number of years my father's homestead cabin served as the center of domestic life for the Garrison family. Meals were prepared in the log "lean-to" on the north end of the cabin. Throughout the dwelling furnishings were simple but functional. In the kitchen there was a wood burning cook stove, a cabinet with a flour bin and shelves for storage, a table, a bench and a few chairs, and a wash stand on which rested an enamel wash basin, a bucket of water and a tin dipper. Wood for the cook stove was stacked near the wash stand,and over on the far side (south) of the kitchen, near a window, was a cot.

The main dwelling area was partitioned, providing sleeping quarters at one end and a large living area in the remainder of the cabin. A beautiful solid oak sideboard adorned one wall and in front of it, in a place of prominence, stood a matching,round, extension table. An Aladdin lamp, which occupied the centre of the table during the long winter evenings, provided a measure or ornamentation and the needed illumination.

The windows, which at intervals during the winter months would be covered with a thick coat of frost, were draped with simple but attractive lace curtains. During the spring and early summer the lengthening rays of the sun, through these same windows, would rouse my mother's house plants to active growth once more. She loved houseplants, flowers, and shrubbery. Her favourite indoor plant was "Baby Tears", perhaps in this predilection there was an unconscious projection of the daintiness and unobtrusiveness of my mother's own personality.

On the walls, a few pictures completed the interior decoration. Some of these pictures, like some of the furniture, were wedding gifts from friends and neighbours. Two pictures in particular attracted my attention. One was a large black and white lithograph of a 19th century scene mounted in an ash-grey hardwood frame. The picture depicted an attractive young girl and a beautiful Collie dog who was looking up at his mistress inquisitively. I suppose I remember this picture because it reminded me of my father's two faithful canines: old Bruno who lived to the ripe old age of fifteen, and Flossie, his young companion, who yearly delighted my boyish heart with unusually large litters of sqirming, cuddly pups.

The other frame was considerably smaller, but held much more personal interest for me. It displayed four small portraits mounted behind oval openings in an off-white mat. A picture of Reginald Lloyd, my father's closest friend during his bachelor days, who was killed in action in France during World War I, occupied the left end of the frame. On the extreme right of the frame was a picture of a family relative, whose identity I do not recall. Portraits of my father and mother, taken about the time of their wedding occupied the centre of the frame. These reproductions were of particular interest to me because they portrayed my mother with a beautiful head of hair, and my father with a mustache which was very becoming to him, I thought. However, my life-long recollections of him were'sans moustaches'. I never did learn why my father decided to shave it off!

Beneath the main living quarters was a root cellar, access to which was made from the living room by means of a trap door and pole ladder. Here, in the fall of the year, potatoes, rutabagas, carrots, beets, parsnips, and a few cabbages were stored for the long winter ahead. Glass jars with an assortment of preserves rested on an old wooden table, or on the edge of the cellar near the ladder. In one corner stood a tall, 4-gallon milk can. By fitting this can with a wooden top and a plunger, it also doubled as a butter churn. In a corner were some stoneware jugs and crocks. Occasionally, a crock would contain salt brine and pork.

I recall that upon one occasion in my pre-school days this musty old cellar also served as a place of refuge for my mother, my sister Mabel, and myself. My father was away at the time, helping my grandfather Richards harvest his crop. The day had been hot and sultry. That evening a cyclone descended upon the area. As the storm roared around us the blackness of the night was illuminated with brilliant flashes of lightening which were followed by deafening thunder claps. Finally, a window on the south side of the living room shattered under the impact of the wind and hail. It seemed as if any moment the roof of our house would be torn off by the fury of the wind. Immediately, my uncle Russell, who was staying with us at that time ordered us to safety in the cellar. The next day my father returned home and assessed the damage. Part of a haystack and the roof of a nearby building had been blown away, not to mention the damage to that part of the crop that had not been harvested.

Outside our log home, and under its eaves, a large wooden barrel collected rainwater for laundry purposes during the summer months. During the winter, it doubled as a meat barrel for frozen beef. Beyond our house, and about one hundred yards or so to the southeast, were the log stables which first housed my father's oxen and later a variety of livestock, including his favorite team of Clydsdales, "Babe and Tootsie".

My very earliest recollections, however, were naturally much more limited in scope than my description of the family homestead recorded above. Indeed, the memories which reach farthest into the recesses of my mind concern my mother and books. I can still recall quite vividly, during my pre-school years, that I was the culprit who upon one occasion, absconded with my mother's steel knitting needle in order to perforate the cover of a book. As I later found out, the book was Dafoe's classic - Robinson Crusoe. I had not yet learned the important lesson that good works of literature are to be respected, not destroyed! Mother was fond of good books and before ever I learned to read she had unconsciously begun to create in me a desire for learning. This she would do by talking about the books she had read, or by taking me upon her knee and reading out loud to me. One such occasion made an indelible impression upon my memory. My mother took me upon her knee and began to read out loud from The Babes In The Wood. I recall, as if it were yesterday, the intense feelings of compassion that welled up within me for the unfortunate children of the story.

By 1921, the need for a school in our area had become apparent. I was only five years of age, but there were other children older than I who were obliged to drive a considerable distance to Duck Creek or Wolverton Schools for their education. Thus, sometime in 1920 the process was initiated for the formation of Rotnum School District #4347. My father took an active role in the development and subsequent administration of the district as a board member.

The school was located on two acres of land in the SW corner of the SW¼, 18, 35, 12, W2. The land belong to Oscar Rotnum, and he either sold it or deeded it to the district.

The school opened its doors for the first time, sometime during the fall or early winter of 1922. Miss Ingram whose father was a road contracted in the Wadena- Quill Lake area, was our first teacher. I began school just after my sixth birthday in November and just a few weeks before Christmas.

I recall quite vividly what I believe was my first formal lesson. Miss Ingram drew a picture of a cat in a seated position on the blackboard. Then she asked me to identify the object she had sketched. Without hesitation I replied, "It's an aeroplane!" Miss Ingram had made an excellent reproduction of a cat, but she had not reckoned with the fact that I was caught up in the fantasy of Christmas expectations. The platform for the Christmas program, had already been installed. An air of excitement prevaded the school. I lived those days in anticipation of a toy aeroplane I wanted for Christmas.

I recall Miss Ingram as being a kind but firm teacher whom I respected. On her desk, she kept a pearl handled pen-knife which held a curious attraction for me. However, I never touched it, for I always associated such a venture with discipline!

Miss Ingram married Mr. Riley, principal of Wadena High School, years later, I was saddened to learn of their tragic death at a railroad crossing.

Miss Cherry took over the teaching duties at Rotnum School in 1923. She was an attractive well-dressed, and well-mannered person. Evidently she had some interest in Natural Science or Botany for she kept plants at school during the summer months. One in particular attracted my attention. It was a begonia or coleus clipping which was suspended in a solution of water and red ink. The objec t was to illustrate the process of osmosis. I found it fascinating to observe the progress of the dye as it made its way up the stem of the plant into the veins of the leaves.

Our next teacher came to us in 1924 from a pioneer family in Wadena. She was a petite young woman by the name of Elsie Bryce. While I do not recall any unusual school experiences during this year, I do remember her as a kind person whom I respected, and under whose tutelage I progressed in my studies.

Leslie Garrison continued

It was during this year, 1924, that I recall having seen my first car. It was a Model T Ford Touring car which the Bryce family would drive up to the Rotnum School on Friday afternoons to take their daughter back to Wadena for the summer weekend.

Other signs of progress were beginning to manifest themselves in our community. I have reference to the CPR which linked Yorkton and Sheho with Nipawin.

Laying the Rails

Little did I realise that Sunday afternoon in 1924 when my father and Mother took my sister Mabel and I in the old buggy to the railroad right-of-way, to watch the track-laying process, that it would significantly change the life style of the entire community. No longer would farmers be forced to haul their grain 15 or 20 miles to Wadena or Kelvington. Soon small towns like Hendon, with grain elevators, a store or two, a post-office and a blacksmith shop, etc. would spring up along the right-of-way. Certainly, the advent of the railroad in our area contributed directly to the improvement of the lot of the families which resided in the Rotnum School District.

A regular visitor to our school, at least once a year and sometimes twice, was a dignified old gentleman from Wadena by the name of Mr. Massey, our school Inspector. In the winter time he engaged the livery services available in Wadena and would drive out with a team of horses hitched to a cutter. In the summer, I believe he first drove out in a buggy and later in a Model T. In any case, the children of Rotnum school were always alerted to his coming, and encouraged by our teacher to be on our best behaviour. So it was, that when our teacher went to answer the front door and returned with Mr. Massey we would automatically stand to attention beside our desks in respect for this venerable old man.

During his tour of inspection, Mr. Massey would customarily take over some of the teaching duties for a short time. On one of his visits I recall that he waxed very eloquent as he recited for us lines from the Canadian Indian poetess, Pauline Johnson. I can still hear him and still recall the enthusiastic gleam in his eye as he recited from the "Song my Paddle Sings",

"West winds blow from your prairie nest
Blow from the mountains, blow from the west"

In 1925, Rotnum School district hired its first male teacher, Percy Heffren from Kelvington. His parents were pioneers in the Kelvington area.

His parents operated a general store. I strongly suspect that my father and some of the other members of the School Board felt that some of the students had reached the point in their physical development to warrant a "firm masculine hand". While I do not recall any particular educational experiences from this school year, I do recall Mr. Heffren quite well. I think he must have been our first teacher who wore glasses in the classroom!

From 1926 to the end of my association with Rotnum School as a High School student in 1933, our home became a boarding place for teachers. Thus, in 1926, Mr. Henry Lowen lived in our home while he taught school at Rotnum. Customarily, he would drive my sister Mabel and I to school in the buggy during the spring and summer months. In the winter, he would drive us in an old make-shift cutter. Frequently, mother packed our lunch in an empty Empress jam can. However, I considered a Rorer's syrup pail to be superior because it had a handle which made it easier for me to carry. In any case, the winter cold was no respector of persons or of lunch buckets! A vivid memory of those winters is that of 25 or 30 students gathered around the wood burning stove at Rotnum in order to thaw out their half frozen sandwiches. But no one ever complained. On the contrary we felt a special camaraderie which was frequently rewarded with toasted sandwiches!

My horizons were beginning to expand and during Mr. Lowen's stay with us, I registered some more "firsts" in my life. One concerns the first radio receiver I recall having seen. Mr. Lowen set a large three stage, regenerative Atwater Kent receiver in our home. It was operated on a six volt car battery and dry cell batteries. Another first, was a pair of new C.C.M. bicycles which Mr. Lowen had ordered. One for himself and one for his school teacher friend, Percy Heffren.

The following year, a teacher came to live with us, Gladys Barnett. She was a very kind teacher and I have memories of a growing interest in school work from that time on.

In general, I was quite healthy and seldom lost time from school due to illness, or for any other reason for that matter. However, one day following a visit from our school nurse, my parents received an official letter advising them that both my progress at school and my general health would be jeopardized if my tonsils were not removed. My parents felt that I should be entrusted to the care of a specialist. Accordingly, my father took me to an Eye-Ear-Nose and Throat specialist in Saskatoon. Again I scored some firsts. I registered my first trip by train, via CNR, and my first trip to the big city.

Late that afternoon I found myself in the Medical office of Dr. Hill. I listened while this tall, lanky, kind faced, grey haired surgeon reassured my father and I, that my operation would be a very simple procedure indeed. He pointed to the fact that he had begun his medical practise in the USA, where he would frequently give street boys a quarter if they would consent to a tonsillectomy. I can't vouch for the veracity of that statement.

Leslie Garrison continued

My father and I were well pleased with Dr. Hill's skill as a surgeon, and the good care I received from the nurses and staff at St. Paul's Hospital. Thus it was that the day following my operation we were able to return to Wadena.

Some of the teachers at Rotnum school were hired for the academic year and others were hired for the calendar year. Thus it was that one bitterly cold day in January, my father met a young recruit from Normal School at the CPR station in Hendon. His name was Mr. Charles Spencer, he had just come from his home in Prince Albert. My father drove him with a team and sleigh to the Wm. Harrison farmstead where he boarded for his first year at Rotnum.

From this meeting there developed a close friendship between my father and Mr. Spencer. My father was attracted to outgoing people, and Spencer approached both his profession and life in general with an abundance of enthusiasm. Perhaps this is why he came to the Rotnum school district with the nickname "Sykes" from Cyclone, for he was a cyclone of activity. His activity was always motivated by positive goals whether he was in the classroom, on the baseball diamond, or in the Officers Training Corp. When my father passed away in 1976, it marked the end of a mutual friendship that had developed from that first meeting on a cold January afternoon in 1928. Yes, a half century of unmarred fellowship that grew out of participation in the education program of the Rotnum School.

During the spring of 1925, I suffered an accident that hospitalised me for nearly two weeks. The day was a Sunday late in April. The snow had melted, the first birds had returned, and the outdoors was generally inviting. My friend Mac Scrimstad had taken advantage of the nice weather to walk 1½ miles to visit me. Between us, we decided that it would be nice to visit our mutual friend, Martin Ostlie who lived 2½ - 3 miles away. However, when I shared the idea with my father, his answer was a resounding "NO". Intuitively, he seemed to sense that trouble was ahead for me if I were to go, unfortunately, I did not heed his request, and Mac and I slipped away unnoticed. Upon our arrival at the Ostlie farm, we gathered with our friend Martin around an old woodsaw outfit. With a stick inserted in a hole of the metal balance wheel, we took turns in providing the circular saw with a vigorous spinning motion. When it was my turn to guide a wood splinter into the teeth of the swirling blade, all went well at first, then suddenly I lost my grip and my bare hand was drawn into the teeth of the revolving blade. When I withdrew my hand three fingers had been cut, one very seriously. Mac and I left at once for home. Sensing that the situation was serious, we stopped at Axel Carlson's for first aid on the way home. There Mrs. Carlson bathed my hand in a Lysol solution and wrapped it loosely. When I arrived home my father was absent. In those days we did not have a telephone or cars to make arrangements for my transportation to the Wadena Union Hospital. Late in the evening, Julius Johnson drove my father and I to Wadena in his Model A Ford Coupe. We arrived there about 11 o'clock.

I now regard my confinement in the hospital as a very important phase in my personal development. In the first place, I had two weeks to ponder the fact that I was hospitalised, as the fruit of my own disobedience. While I did not manifest overt contriteness for either my act of disobedience or my predicament, I clearly got the message that it pays to obey one's parents! Secondly, I began to realise how much I really missed the classes at school. To be separated from it now was almost a sort of punishment for me. In the meantime, the Hospital library provided me with plenty of reading material. In particular, I read many Horatio Alger adventure stories. Thus it was for the first time that my interest was kindled in the Hispanic culture and peoples of Mexica and Southwest USA. An interest that later I would come to regard as both a calling and a profession in life.

Upon my return home from the hospital, I dedicated myself to the task of making up my school work. Some evenings I would work as many as one hundred math problems. In fact a friendly rivalry developed between Olga Scramstad and I to see which one of us would do the most math problems for homework. Thus it developed by June of 1928, I was promoted to Grade VIII.

When Rotnum School reconvened that fall, Mr. Spencer, who was now boarding with my family, had his work cut out for him. There were about ten or twelve of us in Grade VIII. Mr. Spencer's priority was to prepare us for the Government High School Entrance Examinations, which would be held the following June. And prepare us he did!

Rotnum School was designated as an official examination centre that year, 1929 for the first time. Our exams were spaced over a period of several days. All went well for me, I thought, until the last day. Then, I encountered difficulty with Music Theory. I knew that if I failed the exam I would have to repeat grade VIII. I managed to choke back the tears until I had completed the exam. Then I hurried outside the school building and wept. However, my sense of failure was turned into rejoicing when the official word came through from Regina that I had not only passed the exam but that I had passed it with "Honours". In retrospect, much of the credit for this achievement must go to my parents who encouraged me and to Mr. Spencer, who inspired me.

In many ways 1929 was a very significant year for me. It not only was the year which marked my transition from Elementary School to High School, but also the year I entered my teens. In a number of ways I was growing up, or so I thought! Under Mr. Spencer's continueing tutelage, my academic interests were becoming more specialised. In particular, my ninth grade studies in General Science, aroused within me a special fondness for radio-electronics. This interest was to lead to formal studies, and to responsibilities in Guatemala with the Central Amerindan Mission as Technician in charge of Radio Station T.G.N.A. Then too, 1929 was the year in which I became the big "brother" of Sybil Mae.

Leslie Garrison

Sybil made her debut into this world on April 11, 1929, in the middle of the spring "break-up"! There was not enough snow on the roads to permit transportation by sleigh, and the roads were too muddy to accomodate any type of wheel. However, the farmers had already found a solution. They were driving their horses and sleighs in the ditches on the last vestiges of the old years snow. Thus it happened, that when in the very early hours of the morning, mother began to experience unmistable signs of approaching delivery that my father and mother, accompanied by a midwife, our good neighbor Mrs. Sven Torrerson, took to the ditches together in a wild fifteen mile sleigh ride to the Wadena Hospital. Sybil was born that same morning, following mother's admission - none the worse for the trip!

Throughout the years, Fotnum School served as a focal point for the gathering of the residents of the district. Customarily there were at least three social functions each year, a Halloween party, a Christmas program, and an end-of-the-year summer picnic. All these activities were designed to involve the students of Fotnum School. However, parents and friends became caught up in the excitement of the occasion. Moreover, it provided the adults with an opportunity to discuss the things that concerned farmers the most, crops, weather and politics.

The year end picnic of 1931

See how many you can name. These were the days to look at when everyone took turns at the ice cream handle or whatever needed doing. Good days, good memories.

Here sit the farmers of the district - Charles [illegible], Alf Tweidt, Harry [illegible], and Carl Tweidt. I guess what they are discussing!

I still recall two such gatherings rather vividly from the year 1929. One was a Halloween Masquerade party at the school, under the direction of our teacher Charles Spencer. It had been decided that I would attend the function dressed as a Mexican "vaquero" [cowboy]. My father and Mr. Spencer had been successful in acquiring the necessary costume, a furry, mask-or chaps, a beautiful beaded vest, and a large Mexican "sombrero", whose brim, adorned with pom-poms, made up my complete outfit, making me look more than my scarce thirteen years.

The night of the party I did not feel nearly as "Macho" as I looked. A couple of days previously I had received a small-pox vaccination and now on the night of the party it was all I could do to remain in an upright position; fever, nausea, and weakness in my legs. I was still very much a boy who was struggling to be a man.

The second event of that year which fixed itself indelibly upon my mind was the Christmas Concert which the students of Rotnam staged, under the direction of Mr. Spencer, for their parents, friends and relatives. Upon this occasion, my mother and I decided that the complete works of Shakespeare in a single volume, would be an appropriate gift from the Garrison family to our teacher, particulary since Mr. Spencer had been involved that year in teaching, Macbeth to his Grade IX students. Little did I realise then that forty years later, I would be a dinner guest of my former teacher in his home in Surrey, B.C. Before I left that evening Mr. Spencer went to his library and returned with a volume. It was the complete works of Shakespeare ! A smile of appreciation and pride of ownership was registered on his countenance as he opened the book for me to read the inscription which my mother had written forty years previously.

There is a humorous result of the Christmas Concert of 1929. We had supper early that evening, in order to allow sufficient time to dress for the occasion and to make the 2½ mile trip by sleigh. Following the evening meal, Mr. Spencer retired to his room to change his clothes. Suddenly it became apparent that our teacher - boarder was in difficulty. The seat of his best trousers had split wide open and he didn't have another suit to wear. My mother came to the rescue with the aid of her old foot-pedal Eatonia sewing machine. Soon the trousers were mended and the events of the evening transpired smoothly. That is not to say however that I did not entertain some secret fears that my favourite teacher might, mending notwithstanding, experience an embarrassing moment with his trousers before the conclusion of the program!

Charles Spencer was succeeded by Miss Anita Bryant. She came to us as a graduate of Teacher's Normal School and hailed from Moose Jaw, Sask. I remember her as a sweet, happy dispositioned person, who, in more serious moments, betrayed a whole-some shyness and sensitivity. When she accepted the appointment, she assumed a heavy teaching assignment. Some of us were now in Grade X, and our Correspondence Course work from the Government required careful monitoring. Moreover, there were a large variety of lower grades that demanded her attention. Then too, some of us older boys occasionally added to her work load by indulging in foolish pranks.

One such escapade took place during the noon lunch break, Mac Scrimstad, some boys and I proceeded to drown a gopher out of his hole. After we had succeeded, we decided to test our teacher's reaction to dead animals. Accordingly, we hung the wet corpse on one of the classroom doors. Miss Bryant did react, but not as I had anticipated. Thus for that presumptuous act I was introduced, for the first and last time in my academic experience, to the salutary effects of corporal punishment.

In addition to a good academic background, Miss Bryant, brought another very important dimension to the Rotnum School District, namely; her personal interest in the moral and spiritual values of her spiritual values of her students. She demonstrated this concern by her willingness to conduct Sunday School classes in the area and by attending Church Services held in the community. Furthermore, she was a women who believed in the power of prayer. Years later, following my conversion to Christ in 1939, I learned that my faithful teacher had kept me on her prayer list.

Miss Bryant came to Rotnum at the beginning of the Great Depression, of course I did not understand what was going on in the economic world of Canada and the U.S.A. However, I did understand very clearly my father's pragmatic philosophy:
"If a Bushel of wheat won't buy a gallon of gas,the car can sit." And sit it did, for wheat was selling at 30-35¢ a bu. while gasoline was costing the farmer something like 45¢ a gallon.

During those days both my father, who was chairman of the School Board and Jesse Mahlum the Sec-Treas; were swamped with applications from teachers looking for a job. Many teachers, like Miss Bryant were willing to work for $35. a month out of which they paid around $15. a month for room and board.

Miss Ethel Dahlshaug followed in 1931 as the new teacher at Rotnum School. I had now completed grade X work, but school regulations did not permit me to continue my High School education at Rotnum. However, I did enroll in the Sask. Government Correspondence program and complete the major part of my grade XI while helping my father on the farm. Miss Dahlshaug, boarded with my family for several months and was most helpful when I had a problem with my course. Thus my direct association with the Rotnum School covered just a decade; from 1922 to 1932.

Ten years; Ten vital years in the complex processes of moulding a life. And how critical the balance between school work and friendships -- between academic and social life -- can become!

I recall rather vividly the names, faces and families of many of those students with whom I played "hide and seek", "cops and robbers", "pump, pump, pull away", soccer and baseball, with whom I earnestly competed for good grades, and with some of whom I had my petty, childish quarrels. Thus the initial student body at Rotnum was composed of children from the Harrison family; Eva, Ruth and Leonard; the Rotnum family; Clifford and Roy; the Carl Hanson family; Art and Ellen; the Sam Evans family; Johnnie, Mary, and Gwen; the Joe Hanson family; Hans and Linnea; as well as children from the Holstein family. Later, as children reached school age, and as new settlers moved into the district the student body grew. Sylvia Harrison now joined her brother at Rotnum and John and Edith Hanson; who held the distinction of being the only twins to attend our school; continued to represent the Joe Hanson family. Then came the Tweidt family; Mabel, Alfred, Melvin and later Bennie; they made baseball an enjoyable sport for all of us at Rotnum. About the same time the Scramstad family moved into the district; Sylvia, Sigfred, (who later

became my brother-in-law), Olga, Magnus(Mac), Mabel and Alma all attended Rotnum School. Another settler in the area was the Ostlie family represented by Glen and Martin. Then there were children from the Russel Dann's family, from the Schau family, from the Nelson family; Ingrid and her brother and sister. Finally, from the Jesse Mahlum family; Alida, and from the Torgerson family; Myrtle and Lillian.

This "roll call in retrospect" is not presented as being complete. It represents only the names and faces of those whom I recall -- those with whom I had closest contact. It is hoped that other contributors to this worthy historical project will be able to fill these and other omissions.

What was the playground of the Rotnum School no longer resounds to the voices of children at play. Gone are the buildings, gone are the morning prayers, gone is the dedicated voice of the country school teacher. An era has passed into history; the demise of the Rotnum school is but a symbol of our changing society - of the quest for efficiency and excellency at the cost of local autonomy.

Few will quarrel with the academic advantages which the modern consolidated unit school system affords youth of today. However many may seriously question the lack of emphasis of those values in today's education which in the first decade of the Rotnum school, gave meaning and purpose to learning namely; acknowledgement of a sovereign God, patriotism, responsibility, respect for parents, teachers and the individual rights of our fellow man.

Pictured to the right is a class of 1924. This is only a few of the children with their teacher Miss Elsie Brice.

Back Row: Leonard Harrison, Leslie Garrison, Roy Rotnum.

Middle Row: Dorothy Evans, and the teacher.

Front Row: Selma Soderquist.

Bob Gowans

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gowan were early pioneers of the Meadow Bank district. They came from Quebec. They were born in Ottawa, Ont, of English and Scotch ancestry, and were married in Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa in 1901. They lived near Poltimore, Quebec on a farm beside a lake.

Bob Gowan

In those days many people came west looking for land and on May 10th, 1905 Robert Gowan arrived at 24-16-12 W2 in the Meadow Bank district. This land became the homestead. He came by train to Yorkton and by livery team to the homestead. He walked back to Yorkton getting a ride part way with a man driving a team of oxen, and registered a file on the land.

He later travelled back east and in the spring of 1907, returned with Mrs. Gowan and three small children. They came by train to Wadena with carloads of settler effects including three horses, a wagon, plough, furniture etc. and enough lumber to build a place to live. They journeyed north east through sloughs and mud trails and arrived at Ed Thompson's "shack" where they stayed while the men were building on the homestead. Their nearest neighbors at that time were Henry Schmidts and Joseph Wallmans Sr.

Pioneering entailed hardships and many anxious moments. One of the children became ill with typhoid fever and Dr. Ainsley was called from Wadena, he came on horse back. The child had to be cared for at home and reports of his condition taken to the Dr. and instructions brought back. These trips to Wadena were all made on horseback. However with careful nursing and the help of relatives and neighbors he successfully recovered. A trying time for all concerned.

Sometime after this typhoid episode the family moved to Winnipeg and later to a farm at Harding, Man. and in the spring of 1917 returned to Meadow Bank.

Mrs. Gowan was a school and music teacher and taught both in Quebec for several years and in 1917 taught Kelvingside and Duck Creek school in 1918. The Gowan children attended both these schools.

The Gowans always had music in their home. They had a piano and Mrs. Gowan taught the children music. Many times the piano was loaded into a sleigh and taken to Meadow Bank Hall and the schools for concerts and dances.

DYNAMITE 5
ORCHESTRA 1932

Left to Right

Cortez Gowan, Thurlow Gowan, Arthur Weaver, Clarence Masecar and Leighton Gowan

Front Row
Horace Newman

In the late twenties an orchestra was organized in Meadow Bank "The Dynamite 5". This orchestra contributed a great deal to the entertainment and social life of the community and of many others as well. It continued over a span of approximately 25 years. During that time many other musicians were involved. Five Gowans played in the Dynamite orchestra. For the original group Cortes- violin, Leighton - violin and piano, and Thurlow - Banjo and in the thirties, Thelma played piano and Percy drums.

Robert and Gertrude Gowan had ten Children - Cortes, Milton, Margaret, Olive, Leighton, Phyllis, Van, Percy, Jean and Thelma.

Mr. & Mrs. Gowan were active and interested in everything until, shortly before they died Mr. Gowan in his 94th year and Mrs. Gowan three days before her 93rd birthday:

John Gowan Family

John Gowan and Ida Thompson were reared in the beautiful Gatineau Hills country close to Ottawa at Poltimore, Quebec. In her younger years Ida taught school in that area,(somewhat of a family tradition as we still have hand-made registers, in the family, made and dates 1864, by her mother). Ida was a voice enthusiast and took lessons in voice and piano in Ottawa where she was offered a professional career. Family mores and the connotations of the "stage" at that time forbade any consideration of such a thought.

After their marriage in Ottawa,John and Ida spent a few years there, because he was working in the lumbering industry. Their daughter Orien, Mrs. Steele, presently of Wadena, was born there, before the family "came west" to Duaphin and Grandview in Man. Father was employed at Grandview by T.A. Burrows Lumber Co. as a steam engineer, but everyone was interested in homesteading in the first decade of the twentieth century quite early. The birth of a son, Thurlow, may have been the deciding factor which made the family settle down for good on the farm.

John Gowan, called "Jack" by most of his friends, pioneers like Dick Messenger, Dan McKay, Dan Wartz, and Harry Milligan to mention a few, had come to Meadowbank from Grandview where he was in charge of the,then new sawdust burning equipment there. As well he had control of the power house which lighted the town and the sawmill in a day when small town electrification was rather rare.

He had apprenticed for steam engineering with W.C. Edwards and J.R. Booth of Ottawa lumber fame, so he was able to apply these talents well when he came West to Grandview.

John's first trips west were with the popular harvest excursions of those times where his experience with steam was in good demand. He worked for a few falls in the Wolseley district, both operating threshing engines in the field and setting up and delivering new machines for a dealer there. It was a time when oil

burning engines were called contraptions, and steam was opening up the West, - even to pulling breaking plows in six or eight furrow gangs, -- Those old steamers were strong!

The Gowans settled on the NW ¼ Sec 24-36-12 in the year 1907. This was the area served by the Meadow Bank Post Office which was situated on NE ¼ Sec 16-36-12, one of the stops north of Wadena on a route to Kelvington, Perigord, or Manchester, which later became RR #1. The first years on the farm, a house and granaries were built of logs from Ross's mill, somewhere in the neighborhood of the present town of Rose Valley. One of these granaries were still standing in the summer of '79 and probably still is with its dove-tailed corners and original roof.

On the homestead twenty miles or more from the nearest town, when the best or only roads were in the winter time, it became quite a chore to haul grain or other produce to market. Any town within twenty miles, such as Kuroki, Kylemore or in later years Lintlaw, had adequate store and blacksmithing businesses, but when you and your team(of horses) had been on the road, loaded, for six or seven hours, one needed good accommodation, first for the horses and secondly for oneself. Wadena became the focal centre of many outlying districts because of its good hotel, boarding house, and livery stable(Barn) facilities. Probably this accommodation was a greater consideration in the minds of most Meadowbankers than the "bar" at Louie Lund's Hotel, at least, in the case of our father it was.

Because he spent much of his time giving a hand to any neighbor who needed it, be it in the field of vetrinarian, carpenter, or blacksmith mechanic where he was most adept, Jack Gowan had little time for public life. Never the less, with the help of his good wife he was the first secretary, of the Duck Creek School. (My sister or Mrs. Irving may correct me on this). As well he was one of the charter members of the Wadena Lodge, A.F.&A.M.(Masons) and acted on the board of directors of the Meadow Bank Hall when it was in its heyday. In 1919 the Gowans joined Dan Wurtz', Jack Lanceley and Phillip Hollmans who owned the first automobiles in the neighborhood.

That year when the McLelland Bros.(They were called "aviators" then, not pilots) landed their aeroplane on Henry Schmidt's farm, SE Sec. 26-36-12, Mr. Lanceley drove his Ford the full mile,(the neighbors said he made it in three minutes) down to the 'plane, and nearly succeeded in intercepting the take off. He swore that if the "top" had been "up" on his car the 'plane would have swept it away: it was that close. There were quite a few who saw that strange bird fly over the Duck Creek district on that clear June morning for its dreadful noise attracted much attention. It was the first aeroplane seen in the district and of course everyone went to the Aeroplane Picnic held that afternoon on Sec. 26-37-12 just six miles north of the first landing site.

Thurlow and Orien attended the Dark Creek School and finished high school in Kelvington. Orien attended Wadena School in grades 8,9,10,11. After high school she nursed for years in Winnipeg where she married William Steele. After John Gowan's death in 1954 they moved to the old farm home in consideration of Bill's failing health and that Mother needed someone too. As Bill's health required close proximity to the hospital and the farm was sold they later set up housekeeping and a home for Mother in Wadena. When Bill passed away in 1965, Orien continued to care for our mother, a heavy chore of devoted care in the later years.

When Mrs. Steele became ill for a time in the fall of 79 and was hospitalised Mother had to be admitted there as well. At this writing she is well in the Wadena Hospital and well into her 103rd year having lived in the reign of six sovereigns. In the early years on the farm Ida was active with a Homemakers' Club, which operated mostly out of Kelvingside School, the "Little Green School house, of which Mrs. D.D. Hartsell and Mrs. H.K. Webb were active officials from time to time. Later she belonged to the Meadow Bank Ladies Aid of the United Church. It is regreted that after her one hundredth birthdate she has failed to respond to our questions of the early days for we never tired of listening to stories of the pioneers such as Rev. Horne who conducted the first choir in the Kelvington district, where the Templetons sang the sol fa system while the McGarries sang the noto system, or was it the other way around? At any rate those people sang from the sheet music with sometimes just a tuning fork, or at home around the organ or rare piano. There are not many today who can sight read like that and having a sing song around the piano is virtually a thing of the past.

Thurlow retired recently after teaching for 12 years in Sask. and B.C. He has many fond memories of his former students and colleagues, particularly those in the Wadena School Unit.

As we start the Eighties we can remember back to the names of the first four horses, or even by some, of the first ox team. Our most pleasant remembrances are probably of the first family dog or school pony. However, the highlight for everyone who attended Dark Creek must have been the day the teacher was sick and most of the students held a picnic on the road just about at the gate to Joe Walter's old homestead, nearly a mile east of the Meadow Bank Hall site. Better still it could have been the day Albert Castagnier drove Miss Cameron to school and brought his shot gun along. Well after school was called at noon he and Harry Seed each had a shot at the swing. I can still hear those bangs as they broke the sabbath stillness of the school room, and the propriety of the school board.

Events such as those and the ever present natural labratory we had to study, at the very edge of the school yard, made school anything but a monotonous place to be. One morning sixten Linden brought a shiny new bicycle to school and one of those occasions was surely and soon to arise. It wasn't until the next morning that he and Alfred Messenger, who drove a rather fast horse and buggy, should meet. As young brother Walter stood on the "hack" and sister Kathy sat demurely at his side, Alfred outlined the rules; for after all he'd been challenged. This was just an old

prairie trail so it was agreed that each should have one of the tracks. That left Katherine's side of the buggy out on the rough prairie. Messenger's spirited steed, spoiling for the race soon left Linden in the dust, but not for long. The new bicycle bereft of lunch pail and books striking a level stretch of trail gained miraculously. Alfred, upon seeing his opponent alongside, gave a lusty yell and slackened the reigns. The horse went crazy; Walter dove from his perch into a passing wolf willow grove and Kathy, thrown from her seat, was seen by the whole school going "around the wheel". Linden was a full length ahead now, but Alfred never stopped. With the load lightened by two passengers the buggy sprang forward, and with loose reign and flailing whip they crossed the finish line at the school gate, bicycle to bridle and nose to nose in a perfect draw.

There were quiet times too at Duck Creek when we had gardens in the fireguard, and times when the boys played farm in the soil of it. The farms were quite real with stooks made of soil and peeled posts in a miniature fence of thread or string. On some farms there were real buildings of boards, but the special prize was our threshing machine that really worked powered by an old Sharpless cream separator.

During one of those quiet times a group of chattering boys fell silent to hear Columbus Skinner sing. He was the only black boy we'd ever seen, and when he sang we listened; everybody always listened, to Columbus. We offered him one of the best farms if he'd sing us a song because he wanted a farm and that's all he had to give. "A farm for a song," you say, "You can't get a deal like that nowadays" --- "Well, no!" --- "But it all depends on who is singing."

GRICE submitted by Mrs. Evelyn Beer

Dad(Noel Grice) came to Canada when a child with his sister Amelia Grice(who later married Edgar Caddy).

He returned to England during WWI serving in the Army. He there met Mother, married her and in 1919 returned to Kelvington.

I was born May 1, 1922 as Mary Evelyn Grice. Mother's name was Helena Jane Grice(nee Thixton). My brother Alan Noel Grice was the oldest, then in order myself, next Rosalind Helen(now Schmidt) and Edna Nora(now Dotson).

My birth certificate gives the location of my birth as SE 16-37-12-W2nd, Saskatchewan. We lived there for some time and then moved to what I remember Dad referring to as "The Old Barker Place". It was from there I believe that I went to Duck Creek School. I don't remember too much about it except that I was very shy and the teacher (can't remember her name) tried to make me sing solo and that didn't go, so she kept me in at recess. I have faint recollections of Meadow Bank Hall, seems to me that the family used to go to dances there and also picnics.

We left Kelvington when I was six, in 1929 when Dad went to Sherridon, Man. and Mother took the rest of us to England for six months visiting her relatives, friends and Dad's relatives, returning to Kelvington for a short time and then on to Sherridon where I lived until the war. I did return to Kelvington in 1932 (when the mine closed at Sherridon) for about a year and stayed with my Aunt and Uncle(The Caddy's). At this time I went to Brand School.

Children of NOEL CRICE

Left to Right

Evelyn, Alan, Edna & Rosalind

Wilma Donald was a special friend. Our families, the Caddy's and the Harrisons as I remember were close friends. Mother always kept in touch. I have no recollection of Rotnum School at all.

GRICE submitted by Alan Grice

My name is Alan N. Grice, my father was Noel, my mother Helena. I had three sisters Evelyn, Rosalind and Edna in order as birth.

I was born at Sec. 16-37-12-W2nd Saskatchewan where we lived until I was 6 years then moved closer to Duck Creek which I attended for over 2 years. Then went to England.

My Father came to Kelvington in 1906 as a young boy to work at the age of 11 he stayed with his sister Mrs. Edgar Caddy and brother of Preeceville. Dad went overseas in the 1st WW and married Helena Thixton. They moved to the farm of my birthplace.

I have crossed many rivers since living on the Homestead 6 miles north of Kelvington.

Left to Right
Back Row:
Eric Grice, Noel & Helena Grice, Amelia & Edgar Caddy

Front Row:
Baby Alan, Unknown, Stanly Caddy

# The Frank Gutek Family History.

We cannot rightly consider ourselves pioneers in the Rotnum district. The farm we live on was occupied for 40 years by Mr. and Mrs. Axel Carlson. They left in May, 1949 for a new home in Sweden.

Frank Gutek was born in a small farm village in Poland. At the age of 12 he came with his parents, Paul and Helen and six younger sisters and brothers to Foxston, Sask. He lived here with his family until his marriage and moved to his farm in the Paswegin district.

I was born in Fish Creek, Sask. on June 26th, 1917, the daughter of Anthony Leia and Petronella Gmiterek. Living on a small farm with five sisters and seven brothers. School to me was always a pleasant diversion. After attending Fish Creek School, the Rosthern High School and the Saskatoon Normal School, I began teaching in the Gabriel School on Jan. 3rd, 1937. Two years and 40 ads later came to teach in the Hopeful School east of Foxston. Here I met and married Frank on April 21st, 1940. We homesteaded on a farm near Paswegin.

Our family members are Philip. Ron, Helen, Harold, Lawrence and Kathryn. We also have 13 grandchildren.

Philip and his wife, Donna Small of Chanute, Kansas, live in Kansas City Missouri. Philip is a Plastic Surgeon, a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Medicine, Donna is a graduate of the University of Missouri, College of Architecture and Interior Design.

Ron and his wife Sharon Cowie of Flaxcombe, Sask.,live in Humboldt. An Agricultural Engineer, Ron is a Graduate of the University of Sask. College of Engineering. Sharon is a teacher also a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Education. Their family consists of Maureen, Michele, Melissa and Morgan. They are part owners of the Humboldt and Kelvington Farm Equipment Company.

Raymond and his wife Louise Olsen of Wadena, live on a farm east of Pendon. Raymond is a graduate of the Wadena High School. Louise is a teacher, a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Education Their family members are Jeffrey, Matthew and Lisa. Besides being a farmer, Raymond is the Salesman for the Kelvington Farm Equipment.

Harold and his wife Rusty Gartner of Macklin, Sask. live in Calgary. Harold is on the staff of the National Energy Board. He holds a degree in Chemical Engineering Science from the University of Sask. College of Engineering. Rusty's a Laboratory Technician is a graduate of the University of Alberta. Their family members are Colleen and Patricia.

Helen and her husband Brian Hicke of Killaly, Sask live in Saskatoon Helen, a graduate of the Kelsey School of nursing, works in the Sherbrook Nursing Home. Brian, a graduate of Campion College and the College of Education, University of Sask. Is a teacher in the Holy Cross High School in Saskatoon. Their family consists of Jillian, Kenton, Daniel and Cameron.

Lawrence and his wife Lindy [illegible] of Kelvington, make their home in Asquith. Lawrence is a graduate of the University of Sask. College of Arts and Science and the College of Education. He is a [illegible] and a farmer in his spare time. Lindy is a graduate of the Kelsey School of Nursing.

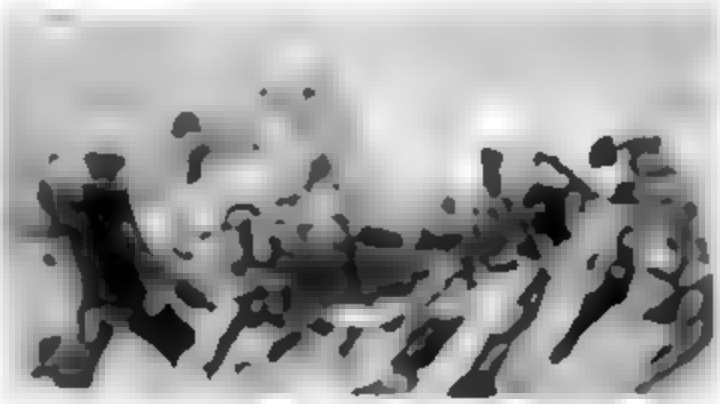
Farmer lives in Saskatoon. She is attending the University of Sask. College of Education.

My family and I once went to [illegible] School, where I taught for three years from 1953 to 1956.

Farmer Leitch

Farmer Littlewood

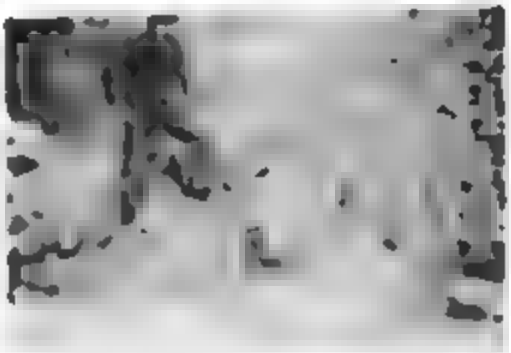
Otto Schau
Earl Leitch
Paul Mack



The Engineer
Ken Leitch

Ice Blocks To Melt

The Job Well Done



Chop the wood for the winter warmth

R. GUTEK B.A. MD. F.A.C.S.

My history is brief. Potwin 19[illegible]-[illegible], Victoria Park 19[illegible]-5[illegible], Kelvington 19[illegible]-[illegible], Wadena 19[illegible], [illegible] of [illegible] B.A., [illegible] of S[illegible] 19[illegible] M.D. St. Lukes Hospital, Kansas City - Internship 19[illegible]-48. General Practice, Wadena 19[illegible], General Surgery Residency, St. Lukes in Kansas City 19[illegible] (Ferdinand-Kellogg Award for outstanding resident), Travel Fellowship in Plastic Surgery to Copenhagen, Stockholm, Malmo and Helsinki in 19[illegible]. Plastic Surgery Residency, Kansas City General Hospital, 19[illegible]. Board Certification in Plastic Surgery 19[illegible], Fellow American College of Surgeons 1979.

I am now in private practice of plastic surgery in Kansas City. Faculty of Medicine at University of Missouri in Kansas City.

Married in 19[illegible] to Donna Small from Chanute, Kansas. No children. Donna has a Bachelor in Interior Design from University of Kansas.

Special interests, skiing in Colorado, fishing at Lake of Ozarks.

Recently chosen as one of top three plastic surgeons in Kansas City.

[illegible] submitted by Edith Priestley Sept 9, 1871- Jan 11 19[illegible])

Josef Hanson was born in Malon Sweden Sept 9, 18[illegible]. He left his homeland at age 1[illegible] to come to U.S.A. In 18[illegible], the year past, became a provincial he and his brother Carl came to Canada. They each took a homestead in the Kelvington S.[illegible]., where they farmed for many years. They came in response to advertised accounts of the vast uncultivated acres of parklands in the Wadena area.

Selma Hanson(nee Olson) was born in Malon, Sweden(Dec 11, 18[illegible] to Mar 17, 1[illegible]. She came to Canada in 1[illegible], and July 1, 19[illegible] they were married in the United Church manse by Rev. Waller.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY Mr.&Mrs. Joe Hanson

Happily, they lived to celebrate their GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY in 1969, plus another few years! Their homestead location was: Melvin Tweidt's location today! It was located midway between Kelvington and Wadena along the mail route, RR1. Their home became a half way house for many weary travellers, to feed their horses, while they enjoyed the warmth of a wood-stove, and Mrs. Hanson's home cooking.

In early years they were active in the affairs of Wolverton school district, since that was the nearest school. However, when Rotnum school was built their interests were focused there, as well as the Scandia Lutheran church and Scandia Ladies Aid and Meadow Bank community activities.

Several teachers of Rotnum S.D. boarded at Hanson's home. They included Charles Spencer 1929, Ethel Dalshaug approx 1932-33, Don Leitch 1934-36 and Ann Nicholson 1939-40 approx.

Miss Bryant and Mabel Lindstrom boarded at J. Garrisons. The Hanson Family included a son Hans, a daughter Linnea and twins John and Edith(first set of twins to be born in Wadena Union Hosp.) Another daughter, Sadie died at age 3, stricken with influenza in 1918.

Edith and John started at Rotnum school at 7 yrs of age(1928). Mr. Spencer was the teacher that year. As I recall, from approx. Gr. III on, thru to Gr. VIII(and even Gr. IX & X by correspondence). They were fun-filled years.

Average attendance at Rotnum School over those years ranged between 20-30. During my early years of school it was customary to have holidays during the month of July and approx. Dec. 23 to Feb. 1. This was because of the difficulties of getting to school in severe temps and short daylight hours of January.

Christmas concerts were the high light of the season. Lengthy programs were prepared with recitations, dialogues and musical numbers. The school was always filled to capacity. How exciting it was, a day or two before the concert, to see the Christmas tree go up, the temporary stage built and seats of planking go in. Santa never failed to arrive, and deliver the many gifts under the the tree!

Speaking of the program, I recall Lillian Torgerson never failed to please the crowd with a new song! I wonder how many times John and Edith were jo-ed into singing a duet like it-or not!

We, at Rotnum school, envied the students of Duck Creek school. They had the liberty of using the spacious Meadow Bank Hall for their Christmas Concert. Large crowds attended; entertainment was of good calibre. Year after year Sandy Donald was master of ceremonies and Mr. Lancely acted as Santa!

Each year the school, closing was marked by the Annual picnic, approx. June 30th. Entire families turned out, bringing picnic lunches. Softball was arranged, plus races of all kinds for every age. The home-made Ice-Cream was superb! I've never tasted better!

My earliest recollection of Meadow Bank Hall was when attending Duck Creek school concerts with our parents; later there were social gatherings(Where I remember Mr. Jones singing "I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen" etc) and annual picnics. As I grew older, we had many ball games played on the grounds, C.G.I.T. gatherings, Sunday church services led by Miss Grushe of Kelvington. Also many

bridal showers, wedding dances, regular dances, meetings etc. held in the hall. Looking back, some of the most "fun-times" during my adolescence were at socials and dances held at both Meadow Bank and Hendon Halls.

Rev. Aandal, Rose Valley held church services in Scandia Lutheran Church on #35 hi-way. They seemed to be on quite an irregular basis due to weather, roads, etc. John and I and Ben and Selmer Tweidt were confirmed at the same time, approx. Aug. 1934?

John and I took Gr. XI & XII at Wadena High school. Well I recall the fun times during our first year when John and I as well as Sylvia Harrison and Harry Linden boarded at Scott and Martha Branscombes!

The second world war broke out in Sept. 1939. During years 1940--43 I was a student nurse at Saskatoon City Hospital. After graduating, Miss Gregory persuaded me to come to work at Wadena Union Hospital. They were so short staffed, but I could only stay on for 4 months because on Dec. 31, 1943 P.O. Lawrence Brierley and I were married. It was a double wedding ceremony with my sister Linnea and Carl Tweidt. We were married in our farm by Rev. Morland.

Following Larry's discharge from the services in 1946, we lived in Wadena for 3 years, Larry being employed by Dept.of Social Services of Sask. -- then 1 yr. in Winnipeg - followed by a 15 year stay in North Battleford. In 1965 Larry was transferred to Saskatoon. He retired in 1978. We left Saskatoon 1 year later.

I returned to the field of nursing, working on a part time basis during the years 1962 to 1975.

We have a family of two girls and two boys. Rev. grad ated from U of S 1971 with her B.A. & Bachelor Sc of Nursing. She's married and lives in Coquitlam, B.C.(family of two).

Lawrence graduated from U of S.1974 with a degree in Medicine later followed by a 3 yr. course in Opthalmology and presently serving as a surgeon in St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital in Jerusalem, Israel. He also is married with a family of two.

Shelley graduated from U of S. in 19?? - B.A. degree, presently employed as a Reality Therapist in Vancouver.

Gaynal - our "much younger" son grad ated Gr XII from Aden Bowman Collegiate, Saskatoon and presently employed with "For-In-Tek" at U.B.C. Vancouver.

The Josef Hanson Family - by John Hanson

Josef Hanson arrived at what was later to become the Rotnam Community as a homesteader taking up homestead rights on NE¼-6-36-12, W 2nd. The brothers came as many others did to lay claim to

The Josef Hanson Family

No. 167303

DOMINION LANDS.

INTERIM HOMESTEAD RECEIPT.

No. 20687.

DOMINION LANDS OFFICE JAN 3 1906 YORKTON, Assa.

Agency,

190

I Certify that I have received from Josef Hanson

440. 11 St Moline Ills USA

the sum of Ten Dollars, being the office fee for Homestead Entry for NE.

Quarter of Section 6 Township 36 Range 12

West of 2nd Meridian, and that the said Josef Hanson

is, in consequence of such entry and payment, vested with the rights conferred in such cases by the provisions of "The Dominion Lands Act," respecting Homestead Rights.

Jas E Peake

Local Agent.

The holder of this receipt is required to prove six months' residence upon, cultivation of, and improvement to the extent required by the Dominion Lands Act, before application for patent.

NOTE.—All mistakes existing in the above receipt must be reported in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands, Ottawa, before application for patent.

ADVICE.—This Entry is granted under and subject to the provisions of the Dominion Lands Act and its amendments governing Homestead Entry for Dominion Lands.

**OLD RECEIPT**—The receipt pictured above is one for $10.00 received by Josef Hanson for the Northeast Quarter of Section 6, Township 36, Range 12, W2 when he paid for his homestead quarter on January 3, 1906. Wonder what the same quarter is worth today?

free land which was advertised widely in the mid-west U.S.A. at that time. The vision of owning your own land and the independance that would flow therefrom was to be sorely tested many times before it became a reality.

Much hardship, loneliness and privation instead awaited those early settlers as they struggled to clear and break small acreages each year on the homestead while trying to finance and build shelter for themselves and their livestock against the bitter cold of those early winters.

Dad spoke of those early years and the trials and tribulations spent working with oxen. Mosquitoes were fierce and oxen with plow attached would leave the furrow and head for the nearest slough to get relief from the hordes of mosquitoes attacking both man and

beast. Horses were costly and many died from disease and the harsh environment.

My mother, Selma Olsen came out from Sweden in 1909 to marry my dad and to share the task of raising a family and building what was to later become a modest size farm.

Roads in the early years were trails crossing the country side as the crow flies to shorten miles to town. Our farm was located along the main travelled route from Nut Mountain to Wadena which the settlers of that area used as their access to railroad where they marketed their grain and cattle bringing back supplies for the homestead.

Early frosts, rust and wet weather at harvest time were a constant threat to crops in the earlier years before the arrival of newer grain varieties and modern harvesting equipment. The drought of the thirties which struck so much of the province did not seriously affect us other than in 1937 but I remember my dad's concern over grain prices in 1930 being so low that the returns from the crop did not pay for the cost of threshing. I also remember the many families that moved into the community during those years having been forced to leave their homes in the prairie area to make a new beginning due to the ravages of drought.

Our father had recognized the advantages of raising cattle in our operation and Aberdeen Angus formed the basis of the livestock herd for many years until we were forced to reduce numbers in 1937 because of drought and feed shortage.

The Hanson family comprised of three girls and two boys. A daughter Sadie died at the age of five years in the flu epidemic of 1918. The eldest son Hans is presently living in Wadena serving as the town administrator. Linnea, the eldest daughter and her husband Carl Tweidt are farming in the Bothnia community. The family twins comprising myself(John) and Edith are no longer resident in the area. I am employed by Sask. Agriculture as the agricultural representative at Moose Jaw. My twin sister Edith(Mrs. Lawrence Brierley) resided for years in Saskatoon but has recently moved with her husband upon retirement to B.C. where their family are resident.

My father and mother left the farm in 1946 moving to Wadena where they spent several years in retirement. Dad died in 1962 at the age of 80 years and my mother passed away in 1979 at the age of 94 years. To them, I and other members of the family owe much. The road has been easier for us and those who will follow because my folks and other pioneers like them did not give up. They stayed to build the community we see today from the harsh frontier that existed when this province was born in 1905. MAY GOD BLESS THEM ALL.

GROWING UP AT ROTNUM. 1928-36 by John O. Hanson

My first recollection of the years spent at Rotnum School goes back to that first day in school which came after the winter break as the school was closed during the bitter weather of January.

The teacher was young, not long out of normal school, by the name of Charlie Spencer. It was necessary on that first day of school to record all the vital statistics such as name, age, birthdate, etc. My twin sister Edith led off with her information after which it was my turn. In the process of giving forth my statistics, Edith chirped up with the comment that this was really not necessary--did the teacher not know that we were twins. Charlie had remembered that incident and reminded me of it many years afterwards.

Growing up at Rotnum I expect was not much different than that experienced by many other rural children who spent their early years at the "little Red School House".

Looking back, there were advantages along with the many disadvantages that stand out in my memories of those days. In the one room school with Gr 1 to 8, there was much pre-grade learning as we would listen in on the lessons being presented by the teacher to the senior grades. There was also an ongoing comfortable feeling of familiar surroundings and classmates with advancing grades as often teachers continued unchanged over several year intervals.

One of the disadvantages which I remember was the outdoor biffy in winter time. No one ventured to sit on the ice cold seat of that two holer, and as a result, mess that accumulated left much to be desired.

Rural school houses of that day were not equipped with electricity or other forms of artificial lighting. As a result the west wall of the school was generously endowed with windows. These were single windows without fitted storm windows so we were cold in winter during the morning portion of the day and warm to hot during the summer and afternoon period. Heat was provided from a wood burning boxtype stove. This was fitted with a galvanised iron skirting to prevent anyone from getting burned on the hot stove but it also meant that the bulk of the heat was directed upwards and did not radiate outwardly to give warmth to students sitting in their desks. I often felt sorry for those youngsters sitting next to the walls and windows as the cold draught on windy days was very bad.

With the stove burning wood to its capacity, it was often noon or later in the day, before the classroom reached comfortable temperature.

Drinking water was brought each day as there was no well on the school property and water could not be left in the cooler during the winter months as the temperatures in the school dropped well below freezing each night.

Growing up at Rotnum

I guess I was fortunate that my years in school were relatively free of traumatic moments. I remember well where the school strap was housed-- in the lower right hand drawer of the teacher's large oak desk. On one occasion only did I come close to having it administered. The occasion was an incident in class involving Sammy Evans. I remember well staying in at noon when Mr. Spencer laid the strap up on top of the desk and proceeded to lecture us with much vigor. We both turned on the waterworks and I guess he felt that the message had been instilled without administering a strapping to us.

Recreation in that one room rural school in the 1930's was pretty limited. The school library consisted of less than a couple of dozen books, some of which were readers from previous years. I remember the sizable map case with a series of roll down maps used mainly for geograpy and history studies.

Sports equipment was also at a minimum. It consisted of a ball and bat plus a glove for softball and a football that served to give us lots of exercise chasing it up and down the designated playing field in accordance with our rules that were anything but soccer rules.

The highlight of the year was to play softball in the spring and challenge neighbouring schools such as Orpinton and Victoria Park. These games at times became more than sociable exchanges as there was much jeering and hurling of verbal abuse as the game went along. Pop Davis who had moved into the district in the early 1930's was our means of transportation when we had games with neighboring schools.

The annual highlight of the entire school year centered around the Christmas concert. This was the occasion when the entire school class had a part either in recitation, chorus, or play and preformed for the entire community who were there as it was viewed as the major social function of the season. The arrival of Santa Claus at the conclusion of the program with gifts and candy for all added to the excitement and expectation especially for the younger children. There were many worried parents fearful that the gifts ordered from Eaton's catalogue or their shopper division might not arrive in time for that all important and crucial event.

My love for horses dates back to those early years at school. Father bought Edith and I a pony to travel to school. "Innie was her name and she knew right from the start that we were just a couple of kids and she could pretty much do as she wanted with us. We always had a slow ride to school in the morning whether it was buggy, tobaggan or horseback and a fast ride at night for she knew there were goodies waiting when she got home.

I can still remember walking to school in the month of June and experiencing the intoxicating aroma of wild roses blooming in such profusion along with the fragrance of wolf willow also in full bloom. The country side was also dotted with yellow buffalo bean, orange cowslips, tiger lilies and the majestic white blossoms

of Saskatoon and chokecherry. It was truly a time when nature displayed all her great beauty and it really felt good to be alive and a part of it all.

Threshing time in the fall was also a time of much excitement. It meant staying away from school to help shovel grain in the bin. There was great awe and wonder of that big steam engine driving the grain separator with four men pitching sheaves into it at what seemed like top speed all day long.

My years in public school continued to Grade 10 as Edith and I plus others in our class took Grade 9 and 10 by correspondence course. From there we took Grade 11 and 12 in Wadena High School and after a year out on the farm, I proceeded through four years in the College of Agriculture at the University of Saskatchewan obtaining my Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture in 1943.

I have wondered if perhaps I was the first graduate from the Rotnam School who went on to acquire a university degree. One of my regrets in looking back was that many others in that school were not provided the opportunity to pursue their education as there were many very clever people capable of academic scholarship. After graduation and a few years on the farm with my parents, I entered the business world in partnership operation with my brother Hans which involved a lumber yard and farm equipment dealership in Wadena.

This continued from 1946- 1962 during which time I married Violet Halen in 1950 who was a nurse and had to come to Wadena for a short time in 1948 to provide nursing service in the Wadena hospital before proceeding to Jersey City, N. J., for post graduate study in obstetrics. We were blessed with three children, Marion, Donald, and Vivian during those years in Wadena. In 1962 upon the death of my father, I took employment with Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture in the Extension Service. I served as agricultural representative at Hudson Bay from 1962- 1966 when I spent a year on graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin obtaining a Master's Degree from that institution in 1967. In September, 1967, I returned to Saskatchewan and took a posting with Saskatchewan Agricultural representative at Moose Jaw where I have resided since that time.

As I compare the educational facilities and advantages of my day with those of the present, I marvel at the progress that has been achieved. I wonder though if there is a sense of appreciation among our present generation for the opportunities before them in the field of education -- opportunities those of my era and before would have dearly loved to have known and in which might have been participants.

Mr. & Mrs.
Joe Hanson

Mr. & Mrs.
Carl Hanson

CARL HANSON FAMILY: submitted by Ellen and Ester

Fathers full name -- Carl Erick Hanson -- born in Hajom, Sweden May 10, 1877 - Died July 8, 1953 at Prince George, B.C.

Mothers full name -- Anna Bernadina Nellson - born in Hayom, Sweden Feb 11, 1885 - Died Feb 13, 1956

Children -- Ester(Ottarson) of Prince George, B.C.
Ellen(Adams) of Prince George, B.C.
Arthur Hanson Deceased -- June 11, 1946

Dad came from Sweden in the early 1900's to U.S.A. and worked at various jobs until 1904 and then went back to Sweden and brought mother back. He then filed on a homestead(SW Sec 6-36). He and mother married in 1905 and moved back to the homestead. In 1909 they went to Denver, Colarado. where he worked in a mine for a short while and then returned to live permanently on the homestead until 1919. When they retired to Hendon. They moved to Prince George, B.C. in 1951..

Audrey Bernice Ottarson is Esters daughter and she attended school at Rotnum for a while. Bernice is now Mrs. J. E. O'Conner and lives at Churchill, Man.

MRS HARMON by daughter Doris Prouse

Mrs. Jeannie Moore, a young widow and her 15 month old daughter came to Canada in 1904. Mrs. Moore being a sister-in-law of Mr. Otter, who had come to Yorkton area the previous year, persuaded them to come out to Canada and stay with them until they could get settled on their own, and so it was, they came to the Yorkton area and the Wallace district. Doris never knew her own grandparents so she thought of

Mrs. Harmon

Mrs. Harmon

Mr. & Mrs. Otter as her grandparents.

Three weeks after arriving in Yorkton, Mrs. Moore met a young widower Howard Garrison, and this meeting resulted in marriage.

The Garrison family then came to the Meadow Bank district that same year in search of homesteads, Jeannie Garrison filing on the NE ¼-24-36-13 and on which the family lived the winter of 1904--05. A step-son, Melvin Garrison filed on the SW¼-24-36-13, but he found he was not suited to the hard life and gave it up. A Mr. Hilder, who had married Mrs. Garrison's sister, took up this same parcel of land(later disposing of it to Jay Garrison) who had taken up as his homestead the NW¼-24-36-13.

That winter typhoid fever struck the home, with Arthur, Melvin and Mrs. Garrison all being stricken at once and their neighbor, Mrs. Wm. Harrison nursed them all back to health.

In 1905 while in Yorkton Hospital and ready for discharge, Howard Garrison passed away very suddenly.

Several months later Jeannie Garrison married Ed. Harmon. It was the first wedding ceremony in the Meadow Bank area -- folks can remember the Rev. Bailey coming out from Wadena by livery, driven by Mr. Milligan and it was such a cold day the minister's face was frozen. They had brought with them a wedding cake, made in the confectionary at Wadena, owned by, a Mr. Hodson and the three tier cake was frozen so solid, it had to be cut with an axe. Present at the wedding were: Bob and Bill Lee, The Reeds who lived on the present Garnet Booth farm, and also the Dick Yeo's, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Harrison witnessed the ceremony. Doris remembers that Eva Harrison(Irving) was the first baby she had seen.

In the spring of that year they moved to the Ed. Harmon farm south and west of Wadena which is presently the Ruth Barnett farm, in the Quill City area. Daughter Doris attended school at Quill City.

In 1909 the Harmon family moved into the town of Wadena and purchased what was a small acreage with a house and also a barn where Ed. Harmon could keep horses. The site of that property was one time owned by the Godkin's and now by the Jackson's and is north of the C.P.R. tracks.

In 1913 Doris and Mrs. Harmon went to Raddell, where Jeannie Harmon worked and Doris continued her schooling.

In Dec. 1919 Doris married John Prouse and they lived on their farm north west of Kelvington for 17 years. Doris has lived in the same house in Kelvington for 41 years. John passing away in 1967.

Jeannie Hermon spent many years in Kelvington, where she owned her own home, passing away in 1945.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Harrison and family-by Eva(Harrison) Irving
S.E. Sec. 20-36-12 West

Saskatchewan became a province in 1905 and the C.N.R. railway was pushing westward from Winnipeg. It passed through the area where we are now familiar with the names "Invermay, Margo, Kuroki, Kylemore, Wadena, Paswegin, Claire and Quill Lake." North and south of this line early settlers sought homesteads and a new way of life.

Among these were Mr. Wm. and Howard Harrison. They had emigrated to Canada from near Liverpool early in 1905 and worked in Manitoba before coming to the Wadena area in 1906. Miss H. Smith came from Liverpool area also, and married Mr. Wm. Harrison at Baldur, Man. in spring of 1906. Mr. Wm. Harrison, leaving his wife with friends in Manitoba came with his brother Howard to Wadena, Sask., and filed on a homestead (S.E. Sec 20-36-12) in June 1906. He chose this location because of plenty of wood for fuel and building and a lake which held possibilities for cattle raising. The lake had many advantages but also disadvantages-one being the hoards of mosquitoes which infested the area in the woods and tall grasses around the lake.

Mr. Howard Harrison homesteaded SW Sec 28-36-12 which he proved up - but didn't remain in Canada. This land is now owned by his nephew Keith Harrison.

The first task of the homesteader was to build a house-in time for habitation in the fall. This was done with logs, felled from nearby woods - stood upright - (as the new homesteader had no means of moving logs except by hand and of necessity they had to be short logs.) The walls were plastered with clay and roofed with poles and covered with sods, cut from the prairie.

When Mrs. Harrison came from Man. in October - there was the house! It had a dirt floor and it was some time before boards were available for a floor. The furniture was homemade.

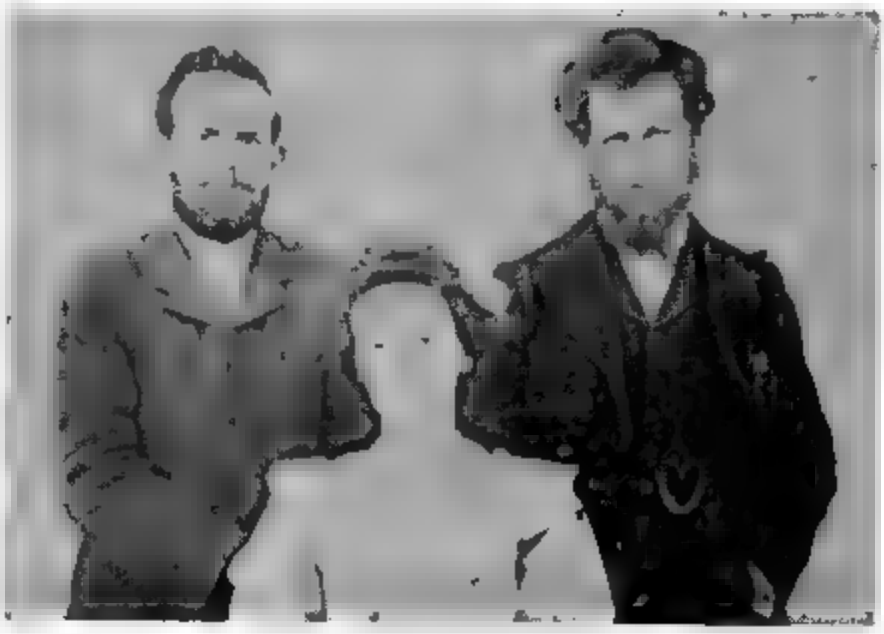
During the following months a barn was erected and land cleared and broken to fulfill homestead duties.

In 1909 the family moved to the north side of the lake where a new house was built, also of logs, on a hill where breezes could blow and discourage the mosquitoes. Now in 1976 the house still stands and was habitated by the Harrison family until 1968 when a frame house was built.

In the winter of 1906-07 was a long cold one. There was an epidemic of typhoid fever in the area and Mrs. Harrison was called to care for typhoid victims in the home of Mr. Howard Garrison N.E. ¼ Sec 24-36-12.

The eldest member of Harrison family, Eva was born in the little house by the lake in January 1908. In the spring Mr. Harrison returned to Man. to work in order to earn money to buy food, oxen, machinery etc. Mrs. Harrison, with the baby spent the summer months alone on the homestead. It was a lonely time,

Wm. Harrison and Family



Mr. Howard Harrison

Mr. William Harrison

Mrs. William Harrison

neighbors were few and far between the nearest town 16 miles away--post office one mile east along the lake at the home of Mr. Dan Morrison. It was known as Meadow Bank post office and situated on N.E. ¼ - Sec. 16-36-12. At junction of two lakes known as lakes 1 & 2. on survey maps. There was no way to reach the post office except on foot. Mrs. Harrison decided during her sojourn there that that summer would be the last in the location, hence the move across the lake, where greater acreage was in any case. Here the Harrison family grew up - (Eva, Ruth, Sylvia, Leonard and Keith) and where Keith and Leonard still live.

The settlers at this time came from various places, U.S.A., Scanderavia; menonites from Germany and some Ukraine. Possibly Scandinavians were in the majority at that time in this area.

The roads were prairie trails around sloughs and across creeks - The Scandinavians adept with skis had a better means of winter travel than walking. There was always the danger of becoming lost as there were few landmarks.

As time went on oxen were purchased and they were faithful animals - being strong and able to pull trees and breaking plough. The settler had few tools - axe, hammer and saw.

As population increased and families grew up, there was a need for schools. The Duck Creek School district was organised in the fall of 1907 and a school building was erected in time to hold school in 1909. The teacher, Miss Armstrong, came from Toronto.

Visiting among one's neighbors was only source of entertainment for a long time but eventually there were gatherings and people came many miles to picnics. The first Meadow Bank picnic was held

in 1909. Later there were Christmas concerts in the schools, parties and dances in the homes - music provided by violin, accordian or some one 'on the comb'.

The church also played a part in the development of the community - first services were held in Mr. Waddell's (bachelor home - NE 18-36-12). This is where Eva Harrison was baptized.

By 1916 a United Grain Growers organization was formed and they built a community Hall N.E. ¼ Sec. 20-36--12 which became known as MEADOW BANK HALL. This was centre for all future social events. This building was later moved to NW ¼ Sec 15-36-12 and continued in usefulness until 1967.

The oxen binding on Harrison's Homestead

Submitted by Ruth(Harrison) Shannon

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1918 | Mrs. Robert Gowan | Duck Creek School | |
| 1919 | Miss Noel Blanc | Duck Creek School | |
| 1920 | Mrs. Eleanor McLean | Duck Creek School | Norma Massey & Marion Massey (relief) |
| 1921 | Mrs. Wm. McQuarie(Hazel) | Duck Creek | |
| 1922 | Miss Elizabeth Cameron | Duck Creek | |
| | Miss Helen Summerveld | Rotnum School | |
| | Miss Jean Ingram | Rotnum | |
| 1923 | Mr. George Philbin | Duck Creek | |
| | Miss Mary Cherry | Rotnum | |
| 1924 | Miss Elsie Brice | Rotnum | |
| 1925 | Mr. Percy Heffern | Rotnum | |
| 1926 | Mr. Henry Lowen | Rotnum | |
| 1927 | | Kelvington High School | |

In 1918 I started school at Duck Creek with Mrs. Gowan in charge. I was six years old and had three miles to travel. My mother drove us to school in the morning with Pat and the buggy. She returned home each day to face the breakfast dishes. We walked home after school. Sixten Linden gave me a ride on the handle bars of his bike which was a good lift as far as the Linden gate. Phyllis Gowan was my age mate and class mate. She had black curls and was chubby and cute. I had straight mouse colored hair, was skinny and had freckles. I learned to read and to sing God Save the King. The King at the time was George the 5th and his picture with that of Queen Mary graced the school wall.

Miss Blanc was a French girl who had a deep interest in nature study. She instilled an interest in reading which has lasted throughout my life. I read David Copperfield among other books that year and learned to sing the French National Anthem. We learned to name the authors of everything in our readers. We were still using at the time the Old Ontario Reader.

Mrs. McLean was the sister-in-law of the Inspector of schools for the area and her neices the Massey sisters relieved her for a time. I adored them both but did not adore Eleanor McLean. She stayed with us for a time that year and I had the honor of sharing her room.

Mrs. Hazel McQuarie was a favourite teacher who drove a horse all the way from the farm at Kelvington each day. Her neice Martha Templeton came to school with her for a time. I do not remember for how long.

Miss Elizabeth Cameron died shortly after she taught at Duck Creek. She did not survive surgery in the Wadena Hospital.

Helen Summerfelt married a bank manager from Kelvinton. He was a widower with two daughters. When Helen left, Jean Ingram took over the school. I remember that she saw us through the Christmas concert which in those days marked the end of term. Mr. Riley who was for many years the principal of Wadena school came out to act as chairman for that concert. Jean later married Mr. Riley and they were both killed with their small son in a car accident at Wadena.

In the spring of 23 I went to Duck Creek school for only a few weeks, but I remember Mr. Philbin because he encouraged my liberary efforts. We returned to Rotnum when it opened with Miss. Cherry in charge. She was an excellent teacher and when winter came she used to walk from her boarding place at Carl Hanson's by 7 a.m. to have the old heater going before we arrived. Two important events occurred for me that year. I broke my arm while playing with Ethel Berglund at their farm and I inherited the horse duties from my older sister when she left for Kelvington High School. A less competent horse person probably did not exist. Leonard and I started out each morning with an old buckskin named Jean.

Elsie Brice was a quiet, gentle lady who was very young to take charge of a country school. She later died under surgery in Wadena hospital. The Tweidt family arrived that fall and Mabel and Alfred with Melvin joined our ranks.

Percy Heffern rode a bicycle to Kelvington for the weekends. His friend Henry Lowen took over the following year when I was in grade IX. In September I left for Kelvington and Grade X. That last year Ethel Berglund did not come to school, I lost my sidekick.

Submitted by Sylvia VanBreinnen (Harrison).

Happy times at Rotnum School do seem to centre around the "big slough"! We would hurry through our frozen lunch to get into cold rubbers which had been left in the cloak room while we were learning to multiply, hike to the slough to slide on the ice which peaked out from among the cat-tails and bull rushes. Spring time brought floating muskrat houses, red winged blackbirds, and the Wilson phalarope twirling in the open water, an exciting memory.

In a drought year, a corduroy road was laid through the slough providing a lesson in that aspect of engineering.

The other important thing in school was the stove, do you remember the cold day we sat around and blew bubbles, big bubbles, all the colors of the rainbow- until they were broken- by the bell? Mr. Leitch, that was mean.

TRIBUTE TO THE HARRISONS submitted by Noreen Tweidt.

Mrs. Harrison was an avid gardener. She loved her flowers, and I'm sure that every blossom had a smile for the tender loving care they got. Her shrubs were gently tended, and also flourished. She had a love of nature that has manifested itself in her family as well. She knew every plant's name, wild or otherwise.

Mr. Harrison was well known for his singing. He always had a happy tune while he worked. I can remember the way I enjoyed his songs, as he walked down the road on a cold winters night, with the sleigh runners making their own music on the snow. The horses bells ringing from the strap that attached them to the harness. And Mr. Harrison singing for the love of live, the joy he felt.

He raised some of the finest cattle and pigs that I have ever seen, sure the largest.

Both were the ultimate as neighbors. And I must add that the family has carried on this fine trait.

Ethel Hoard. daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Dann.

Russell was the son of Emma-Richard Dann and came to Saskatchewan from Ontario.

He married Mabel Ness, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Ness, who lived four miles south of Wadena on the land now farmed by Ken Jones. The Ness family had come to the Wadena area from Thornhill, Ontario.

Russell and Mabel along with his brother Guy, took up farming on the N½ 1, east of Wadena later coming to the Rotnum district where they farmed on N.W.¼ 17- 36-12.

There were six children in the Russell Dann family, the eldest being Ethel who attended Rotnum school in 1929, moving from the district in 1930.

The brothers were noted for the nice horses they kept on the farm and it was quite an exciting scene for the school children to watch the Dann brothers moving a building past the school being pulled by horses. These buildings, a barn and a horse, had been built in Wadena and moved out by horse power.

Russell became ill and was unable to work for much of his latter years, passing away in Winnipeg on July 13th, 1930.

Mrs. Dann, now age 75, resides in Thorndale, Ontario.

I am married to Gordon Hoard and we live on the farm east of Wadena.

MR. & MRS. NELS HOLSTEN FAMILY

Mr. & Mrs. Nels Holsten and family of two children came to the district by train in 1906, bringing with them horses, machinery and household items which they had acquired after immigrating from Sweden in 1902.

They settled on a homestead (SE 2-36-13) three miles from the site of Rotnum School (not yet built). They were among the first settlers in the district but were soon very well known, as any of the farmers living in the Rose Valley and Nora area had to haul their grain to Wadena, and travelling with horses the trip could not be done in one day so the Holsten farm became the stop-off place for these tired and hungry travellers.

The Holstens first built a small house which they used as a granary after they built the big two storey log house in 1908.

Mr. Holsten and children did a lot of trapping as their land had several sloughs. Dolly and Gunnar remember going with their dad in the early morning to trap and later helping him skin the animals.

Mr. & Mrs. Nels Holsten Family

After the weary travelers had rested at the HOLSTEN farm, they are getting hitched again to travel further.

The children attended school in Victoria Park and Wolverton. The older ones remember carrying Bert occasionally because it was such a long walk. When the Rotnum School was built in 1922 Violet, Gunnar and Bert attended classes there. By then Dollie was big enough to stay home to work with her Dad doing Man's work, ploughing, harrowing, cutting and stacking great amounts of hay,,running the binder and then doing the milking and taking care of the "stoppers" horses.

When the railroad was extended further north, Mr. & Mrs. Holsten and family moved to Rose Valley in 1923, and opened a cafe there.

Bennie Evenson operated the farm for a short while until it was sold to Arton Faust. Later the same land was sold to N. F. Nelson. Verner Nelson still lives on the same site.

GEORGE HOPE & MAMIE FRAZER submitted by Evelyn Oliver

George Hope and Mamie Fraser were married Nov.12,1902, in Glengary. Hazel was born Nov.9, 1903 in Ontario. They then moved to Marchwell,Sask. in 1904, where Lizzie was born May 21, 1905. Gordon was born Nov.25,1906.

They then moved to homestead on NE ¼ 36-35-12 in 1907. Cecil born in March 14, 1908, Kenneth March 14, 1916, Evelyn April, 12, 1919.

The main stopping place for pioneers that travel from Lintlaw and Kelvington to Wadena.

Church service was held in the home. Mr. Hope was active in th Grain Growers and Farmers Union, he helped organize the Willow Glen School were Hazel and Lizzie were among the first students. He also helped organize the Wolverton Rural telephone company.

He raised purebred Aberdeen Cattle. Rhode Island Red Chickens and purebred Berkshire Hogs.

They sold the farm in I947 and retired in West Vancouver. Mrs. Hope passed away in July I953 and George in March I957.

Hazel became a teacher, later married Herb Topping and farmed at Kipling. Then moved to B.C. They adoped three children. Herb passed away Oct. I973.

Lizzie became a teacher later married James Wright and farmed SW¼ II-36-I2. Had a family of three. When they started High School they sold the farm and moved to Kelvington. Lizzie passed away Jan. I968. Jimmy in I973.

Cecil worked for N.B. Mining at Flin Flon. Passed away in May I955. They had five children, triplets were among the five. Kenneth lives with Hazel's daughter in Delta B.C. And never married.

Evelyn married Bill Oliver, they farmed in the Wadena district and later moved to the town of Wadena, then to B.C. in I969. Bill had four children. Bill passed away Oct. I972. Evelyn and Hazel live together in Surrey B.C.

Submitted By Gordon Hope.

We went to Willow Glen School. One summer there was not enough pupils to open the Duck Creek school. Lizzie and Cecil and I attend ed Duck Creek. The teacher was Miss Jean Blanc. We went to school with a horse and cart, following a prairie trail across Sec. I and II.

My father did carpenter work earlier. My father was Scotch and mother ¾ Scotch and ¼ Irish.

I helped move Meadow Bank Hall. First of all we hauled gravel from the gravel pit with a team and sleigh from NE ¼ of I for the foundation. We jacked the hall up and put two sets of sleighs under it cross ways. Mr. Jack Coates and I each had a four horse team on the haul, and everything went along very well. A lot of the trip was made down Linden's Lake and there was about a foot and a half of snow to use. It was set down on blocks and left untill spring, to have the foundation put under it. I didn't take part in pouring the cement.

Charles Irving Family.

Charles came out from Scotland in the year 1923, and the story goes that while travelling by train and near the town of Sturgis, he asked the conductor what time it was-- the conductor replied 1923 hours but Charlie not being familiar with that jargon replied, " I know its 1923, but what the H--- time is it??

His first job was at another good fellow Scotsman, Sandy Donald. From there he went to John Prouse's farm. He spent one winter with Sam Donald, who was still a bachelor and living on the land now owned by Leith Perron, SE¼- 34-36-12. It was only a homestead shack and they woke up one snowy winter morning to find snow on the bed.

Charlie then decided to buy some land,so he purchased the SW¼ 26-36-12, still referred to as 26.

At this time Fred Perry came along and he lived with Charlie and he was to make the Irving's his home for many years.

The Figilen farm came up for sale, NE 22-36-12. As Wm. Harrison was executor for the estate, Charlie went to him with an offer to buy the farm and he must have asked for Eva at the same time,because he says he got it all in the same deal.

Eva was born on the homestead on the south side of Harrison's Lake as we call it, could be called Linden's, or Avery's or Lillejord's Lake I suppose. It is said the mosquitoes became so bad, the family moved to the north side of the lake.

Eva, it is said, was born during a rare January thaw and has never celebrated a birthday since that has had no snow. She was the first baby to be baptized in the Meadow Bank area.

In 1910 Mrs. Harrison and wee daughter went back to England for a visit.

When it was time for Eva to start school, she began at Duck Creek. It was probably about Grade VIII, when she spent a year at Rotnum School. Gunner Holsten was also going to school there and after meeting Eva, his great ambition was to make good grades and marry Eva Harrison!

After completing her schooling, Eva went to Normal school for four months, going to teach in several different places. The depression came and along with it, more teachers than there were jobs, so by this time with a black eyed bachelor in the background, she decided on a new career, Marriage, and she hasn't been out of a job since.

The wedding of Charlie Irving and Eva Harrison took place at her farm home on Aug.21st, 1934. The weather was cold that night and crops and gardens were frozen.

They have a family of three children, Allan Gail and Brian, all bron in Wadena Hospital. Eva and Charlie have retired, but ckoose to stay in their lovely home on the farm, close to their sons and their grandchildren.

The Charles Irving's

Allan and Gail.

Allan Irving Family.

Allan is the eldest of three children, brother Brian and sister Gail McDougall. He began school at Duck Creek in I942, where he took grades I to 8. In I953 he went to Kelvington High School. According to Muriel Ladubec( Oberg), he was the one with the long, long lashes'. In I955 and 56 he attended the School of Agriculture in Saskatoon and then began his farming career on his farm bought from Pete McInnis.

In July I959 he married a nurse, Carroll Barbara Fennel of Archerwills. They have five children.

Beth; loves figure skating and now attends a school of Optometry at University of Waterloo, Ont.
David; he will graduate from Kelvington High this year and he loves carpentry.
Neil is a hockey fan and longtime member of Hendon 4-H.

Dale; loves hockey and figure skating, plays the trombone and sings.
Tim; figure skates and plays trumpet, and also sings.

Gail (Irving) McDougall

Gail Isabell Irving was born in Wadena Union Hospital. Went to Duck Creek for her first four years of school. In I949 Gail went to Brand because Duck Creek closed.
She completed her schooling in Kelvington High School and trained in Moose Jaw Providence Hospital for a registered nurse.

She married Jack McDougall in I967 and they reside in Saskatoon They have two daughters, Sandra and Brenda.

Brian Irving.

Brian is the youngest of the Irving family, taking all his schooling in Brand and Kelvington. He then attended Agricultural College in Saskatoon. He worked during the winter months with Can Farm at Tisdale and farmed during the summer months.

It was while working in Tisdale, he met his future wife Ann Marie Fagnau. They were married Nov. 4th, I978.

They have also built their home on the Figlen place, adjacent to Brian's parents and across the road from his brother Allan.

Bert married the former Alice Whaley in Dunrea, Man. where she was a dressmaker.

In 1906, Bert and his brother-in law, Mr. Waley came to the Meadow Bank district, seeking homesteads.

Then in 1907, Mr. and Mrs. Johns, her mother, Mrs. Palmer moved in company with the Whaley family, to settle on their homestead . Bert filed on the SE ¼--4-36-12.

The trip was made by team and wagon, taking ten days to complete the trip.

Mrs. Johns was Auntie Johnny to a lot of people. They sold there land to Alex Clark in 1949, and retired in Hendon where they both passed away.

Frank Johns

Frank Johns was the son of Sarah and Willes Johns. They lived on the former Bigolow homestead, the NW ½-2-36-12, just east of the Jim Messenger farm.

Frank attended Duck Creek School in 1921 riding a big white horse named "Skinner".

Later the family moved to Ontario.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones- by daughter Connie Lillejord.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Jones (the former Emily Beatrice Messenger) came to Canada in April 1912, living on mother's brother's farm (the present Ted Coates residence).

Dad helped neighbours during this year and in 1913 worked for Cliff Lee's uncle, Mr. Bill Lee.

In the spring of 1914, they purchased the homestead of Mr. Elof Anderson, NE ¼-10-36-12 and later the SE ¼-10-36-12 from Mr. Gust Faust.

In the 1920's they made further purchases of land from a Mr. Fred Hill, ½ sec.1-36-12, who had acquired this parcel of land from the Soldiers Settlement Board as a soldier of World War 1. Fred didn't care for farming so went to work in the Robin Hood Mills in B.C, and was later killed in a mill accident.

Dad had been a foreman at a large match factory, Field and Platts, and also had worked at Moorelands Machinists, where they turned out large pistons. He had done seven years apprentice and worked 20 years at these factories.

People wondered why this jovial Welshmen with his wife, a teacher of twenty years in England, had ever decided to come to Canada, a land suited only to hardy pioneers.

When asked why they did decide, Dad said he came to rough it because you always lived in fear of being laid off at the factory or being late punching the clock.

So most of all, the idea of being your own boss was good, plus the fact that 160 acres of your very own sounded like a gold mine.

I was born 1910 in the city of Gloucester, England. I had no brothers or sisters, but Mom and Dad raised a boy who was known in the community as Mac Jones. Later Mac went to work in the Mines and then he took his fathers surname, so he is now known as Edward Charles Spencer.

My grandmother, on my mothers side, Harriett Messenger came to live with us and passed away at our home after a long illness. I will

oil lantern, as we were doing chores at the barn.

well.

harvest and fall work. This was in 1924 or 25.

to Helmer Lillejord of Bengough.

Helmer and Connie setting out for the Whilten Ranch.

work for Dad, living on the N ½- 11-36-12.

15 lb. wooden boxes.

lost and the worry was how to get returns in time to buy Christmas gifts. Not to be outdone, Mother took some cream, churned it, and turned out pounds of butter to sell at the Beckman's store in Wadena. Dad started off walking to Wadena, carrying the butter as there was just no way he was going to see Mac and I disappointed on Christmas morning. As he trudged along, Bobby Mottram, a farmer who lived east of us, caught up with him and took him on to Wadena and delivered him safely home again.

I think one of my biggest disappointments was when one of my school mates told me there was no such person as Santa Claus and that year at the Christmas Concert, I recognized who the Santa Claus was, so I knew she told the truth.

Before the advent of refrigerators, it was quite a chore to handle cream and keep it sweet. We used to lower the cream cans into the cold, cold water of our well by means of a rope and windlass. Dad prided himself on the quality of cream he used to deliver, but it meant he had to leave home at 3 A". to reach the creamery in Wadena before the day got hot. It was worth it all when he would take 4 cream cans, each holding 8 gallons, and get top grade--the managers, Mr. Carter and Mr. Murty, in those years would commend him for his efforts as well.

Sometimes I would want to go on these trips with Dad, so Mom would pack a lunch for me. When I got tired, Dad would make a bed with horse blankets on top of the hay, which was taken along to feed the oxen, or the horses as the case may be. I would keep asking how much farther it was and Dad might say "We will soon be there" and perhaps we were only halfway to Wadena. If he shook up the reins and hurried too much, the shaking of the wagon on the prairie trails could turn the cream to butter.

Mom was the choregirl as we always had garden, poultry, pigs and cows to milk with calves to feed and all that goes with farming.

Our post office was in a farm home and called the Net of Lakes. I believe the land location is where the Alvin Erickson's Stoney Creek farm is now located, and this land then was owned by the three bachelor brothers, one of whom, if I recall correctly, was Johnnie Anderson.

The Post Office was then moved to the Fred Burns farm and after that came the mail delivery with the mail driver delivering the mail to rural mail boxes placed along the route, and mail delivery was twice weekly, Mondays and Fridays.

Mr. Chas Seale of the Wolverton district was carrier for many years. The Meadow Bank P.O. was located on the Dan Morrison farm, the farm now owned by Harry Linden. Eventually the Post Office came to be in the little town of Hendon, west of us.

I can remember when they built the railway from Wadena on through what is now Hendon. Mr. Frank Malberg had some horses working on the machinery, others used mules. I remember crying because I thought the teamsters were so cruel using those big black snake whips. Dad would always console me by saying they just cracked the whips, they didn't really hit the animals.

I well remember a Mr. Trorval Anderson (from North of Kelvington) who hauled grain to his, then closest point, Wadena. We kids used to love to watch the trail by our place for the return journey of Mr. Anderson as he always had candy or bars for us. Other grain haulers used to stop to have dinner and feed their horses. I remember Jack Drummond for one, and also Sid Cameron, who lived where Norman Pennies now live. If the fully loaded and the empty load happened to meet there, the team would be taken from the empty one to draw the loaded

one to town.

I remember too in the 1920's, what I thought was a very funny incident. Mr. Jack Lancely had just bought a Model T ford and they had to use the road which passed our place known as the Wadena--Nut Mountain Trail. As they went up the hill and past what is now Helmer Lillegards barnyard, the soil was very alkali and also very, very slippery when it rained.

Mr. and Mrs Lancel had gone to Wadena and while they were away it had rained. On their return journey they stopped and had supper with us, and after a visit, started on their way home. When they reached the hill, the car couldn't make it on the slippery surface, so Mr. Lancely asked his wife to get behind the wheel and after giving a few instructions on how to handle the car, he got behind to push.

Mrs. Lancel, being a little nervous and flustered put the car in reverse and back it went, knocking Jack down and backing right off the road.

Needless to say, Dad had to come to the rescue with the old plugs and haul the car up the hill to give them a fresh start.

In those years the most important event to us, as school children, was our Christmas Concert. No one ever complained about having to memorize their parts, practise their songs or recitations as homework, and no matter how stormy or bitterly cold it was, no one would think of missing school, for that meant missing an all important practise.

Another good entertainment was to gather at one of the neighbors to eat for a friendly chat. I remember hearing Dad and Mom talk of one of the first visitors to welcome us to the district, Mr. and Mrs. Williams arrived and their two year old daughter Eva.

The men folks of the district always enjoyed getting out to a family home in the district for a good home cooked meal. They also had a date for a prairie girl when the neighborhood gathered for a social evening of dancing--mostly square dancing. The homes, were small, but there was always room for more. Music was fiddle, mouth organ, accordian or even a comb if need be. The ladies always managed to whip up this evening of enjoyment and then thought nothing of driving home in an open sleigh at perhaps 40° below zero. Even if a storm struck, the horses always knew the way home.

The homes were small and heated with the old wood cook stove and the old wood range heaters. They referred to them in this way because it took only a few sticks to heat the room, when you returned from a visit, that is once you got the fire going, and it didn't take long for the room would get cool again, unless you kept pushing the wood in constantly.

- Mr. and Mrs. and Lance
- Mr. Fred Jones
- Mr. and Mrs. Distad
- Emel [illegible]di
- Walter McDonald

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kiland

Joe Kiland was the son of Tom Kiland, who came from Moorehead, Minnesota to take up a homestead on what is now the Nick Kozij farm near Hendon.

Joe married Clara Evenson whose mother had homesteaded in the Rotnum area. Their marriage took place in 1913 and was the second marriage to be performed in the Scandia Luthern Church, which still stands at Hendon corner.

They made their first home in Wadena where Joe was agent for the Imperial Oil Co. He later homesteaded what it presently the Arden Johnson farmstead, near the town of Hendon.

Clara and Joe had five children, three sons and two daughters. The eldest son Norvald died as a result of an accident while still a child, and later second son Arthur in a heavy machinery accident.

Joe and Clara lived in the Rotnum district for a time before settling in Hendon in the 1940's where he operated the dray, and in later years was driver of the Co-op Oil delivery truck.

While in the Rotnum district their home was on the SE ¼-24-36-13 and the three younger children attended the Rotnum School.

Agnes is now Mrs Ben Reggenwetter of Alberta.
Frances is now Mrs Don Corrins of Saskatoon.
Orville of Buck Creek, Alta.
Joe and Clara retired to a home in Mount Royal Court in Saskatoon where they enjoyed their retirement until Joe's death in April 1973 due to a car accident.
Mrs. Kiland is still very active and continues to live in Mount Royal Court.

George Koch--by daughter Caroline Donald

George Koch was born in Austria, Germany in the year 1876.

His early youth, he recalls was spent herding cattle on the hills, later taking up the trade of lock smith.

In 1905, he came to Canada working in the Balgonie district where he met his future wife, Rose Klass, also of Austria, Germany. She was working at Regina Hotel at the time.

In 1908 they were married in Govan, Sask. and farmed there for twelve years, as well as doing carpenter work. Later, they moved to the Kelvington area, where they farmed in the Meadow Bank district.

Mr. and Mrs Koch had seven children, six of these children attending Duck Creek school, until the family moved to the Art Hanson place and then on to High Hill.

Caroline Donald of Kelvington, Otto and Ernest of High Hill, Sask, Edith Vickery of Calgary, Bertha Zerff of Kelvington, John passed away in 1936 and Frank in 1937.

In later years Mr and Mrs Koch built a house in Kelvington and retired there. Mr Koch passed away in the Kelvington hospital on his 77 th birthday.

Otto Koch.

I was the son of George and Rose Koch who came from Govan to the Meadow Bank district and rented Charlie Barker section. My father farmed and did carpenter work.

We children attended Duck Creek School while living in the district and I remember quite a few of my classmates, the Gowans, the Harrison girls, the Donalds, the Drummonds, the Bjerke children Sam Lancely and the Fred Jones children as well as Masie Augustus.

In 1944 I married Marie Smith and we have six children. Orvill David, Russell, Rose Marie and Jimmy. They are all married and we have twelve grandchildren.

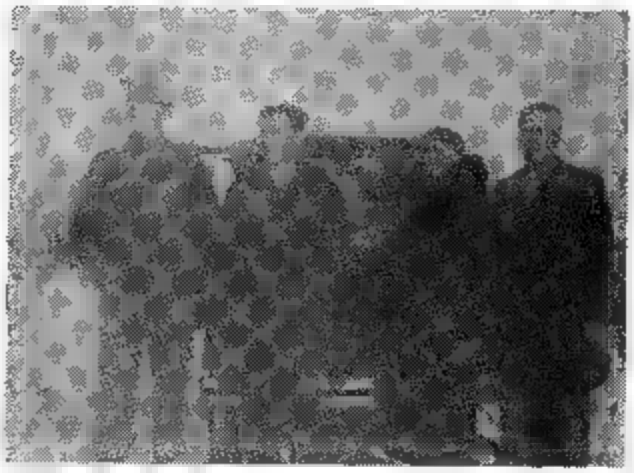
Matt Lang Family.

Mr. and Mrs. Lang came to the Rotnum district and lived on the Carl Peters Ranch.

They came to the area from Duff Sask. And both Mary and Matt Lang were of German descent. They had a family of five children. Gibert and Alvina both attended Rotnum School. Elmer, Wilmarie and Marlene were not old enough to go to school then but lived in the Nut Mountain area for most of their schooling.

What always will stay in my mind is when Elmer and I would ride over to Mack's and Gus would cut our hair. And we would listen to some of Grandpa Mack's stories about the first World War, and then the many hours spent riding horse back herding cattle and driving them to the Meadow Bank Lake for water.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lancely;



Mr. and Mrs. Lancely Sam and Albert

Mr. John Lancely was born in Cheshire, England. He came to Canada in April 1905. Settling at Cupar, Sask., Later moving to Churchbridge, Sask. where he was married to Miss Mary Gibson, who came also from England.

In 1908 he came to the Meadow Bank district and filed on a homestead, SW¼ 24-36-12. Mr. and Mrs. Lancely were hardy pioniers and saw and enjoyed life to the full They had two sons, Albert an Sam .

Sam now has moved into Kelvington,where he has retired.

Mr. Lancely, ever interested in education, served on the Duck Creek school board from 1919 to 1946 when the school was dissolved.

Mr. and Mrs. Lancely were pioneers in many respects, having the first radio in their community in the early days of ADIO. And one of the first cars as well.

COPY OF FILE # 806367.

This was made out to Mr. J. Lancely of the Meadow Bank area. Showing the requirements for receiving title to a homestead in Saskatchewan:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mr. John Lancely | Age 37 years. | ed in 1911 |
| Property | | Value |
| Livestock 1 | | |
| Lumber Stable | | $ 70.00 |
| Well | | $ 20.00 |
| 1911 | 1 cow . . . 2 oxen | |
| 12 x 24 . . . log and lumber house | | $300.00 |
| 1 mile wire fence | | $ 35.00 |
| | Saw lumber and well dug | |

Witnessed by Mr. John Gowan

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1909 . . . | broke 10 acres . . . | cropped 0 |
| 1910 . . . . | broke 10 acres . . . | cropped 10 acres |
| 1911 . . . | broke 15 acres . . . | cropped 20 acres |

December 1st, 1911. Finished house and moved in.

Submitted by Phyllis (Parish) Little

Phyllis Little has many pleasant memories when she was working at the Lanceley's. In the spring of 1937 she recalls needing some help to do housecleaning. Mr. Lanceley suggested going to get Rosella Avery. Which she did. She took old Jean, the pony, hooked it onto the buggy and proceeded on her way. She went through the Parish yard where her mother wanted to go along for the ride. It was the spring the water was high. They got to their destination and picked up Rosella. On their return home they had to cut off right by Fred Jones' corner where you go through the water. We got about 25 yards into the water and Jean decided she didn't want to pull so laid down. I got out

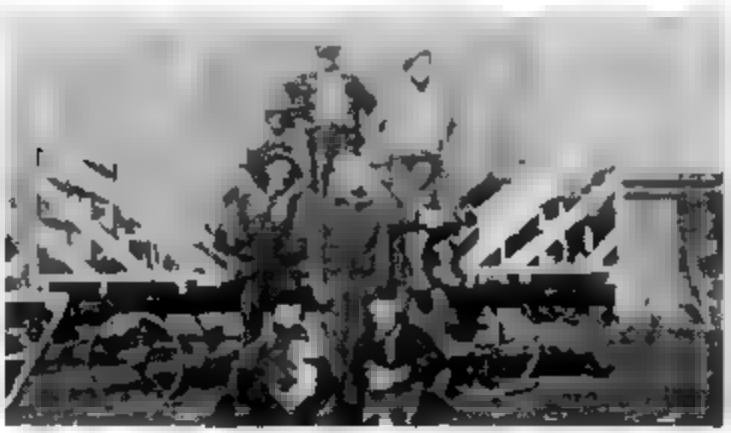
loosened the harness, but she just about refused to get up and get out of the water. I decided to go and get Connie (Jones) Lillejord who informed me that Jean was good to pull with the saddle. Connie and I brought along a saddle with a long rope. She dressed Jean with the saddle, tied the rope onto the buggy and got on Jean. She said, "get up", but she nicely laid down with Connie on her back.

At the time, my brother, Tom was working at Jones'. Connie and I went and got him off the field where he was using four horses. He very willingly came out with a four horse outfit and pulled us out, after a lot of coaxing. Jean and her passengers proceeded on their way hom to Lanceley's.

When Sam saw us coming into the Lanceley yard, he very well knew what had happeded. Jean looked like a drowned rat, and Rosella and I certainly didn't feel like doing house cleaning.

Mr. Lanceley was very active on the Duck Creek school board, where he served for 30 years. He was very fond of children. When we used to have picnics along the shores of Meadow Bank Lake, Mr. Lanceley always chose to look after the little children. He would line them all up and say "go". To their delight, everyone won. He had a chocolate bar for them all.

How we kids used to look forward to Christmas and Santa Claus. Mr. Lanceley was the one and only perfect Santa Claus which we knew. He played and mingled with the children which made the purpose of Christmas so meaningful. What a beautiful memory he left behind - one that will long be remembered.



Sam Lanceley, Van Gowan, Ed Mulholland, Ed Shercliff, Bill Scott, Albert Lanceley and a Shercliff brother and old Ted, the dog

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ladubec

Joe Ladubec was born in the Pelly district and as a young man went to Kelvington in 1927 and worked in the McClure Sawmill at Round Lake until 1933. At that time he moved to Kelvington working

at any job that was available, mainly a farm laborour.

In 1938 he married Leona Powlowski who was born at Wynyard and had spent her teenage years working as a hired girl in the surrounding area. After their marriage they moved to the Meadow Bank District and took up farming on land located 1 mile south west of Duck Creek School and 4 miles East of Rotnum School. In the fall of 1939 a daughter Muriel was born.

In the winter of 1942 due to the hard times the family left the farm and went to Carrot River where both Mother and Dad worked in a sawmill owned by Mr. Cliff Cloggett. Dad ran a steam engine and Mother worked as a camp cook.

In the spring they again returned to the farm and that fall a son Robert was born.

At this time the family lived in a two room shack. One year Dad being very artistic whipped up a tub of wood ashes, lime and water and our plan was a glistening white on the outside.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ladubec

Muriel started school in Duck Creek in the fall of 1945 under Miss Frances Guest and went there until the school was closed in 1949. This closure was due to a very small amount of children attending. I believe 7 the last year. She then went to Rotnum School. This school presented problems getting there especially in the winter months taking Dad at least 1 round trip way to get there by caboose. One winter she boarded with the Armstrong family for about 2 months because of this.

Robert started school there in 1951. By this time transportation was usually horse and toboggan in winter, horse and buggy in spring and bikes in the summer.

Both continued school there until 1953 when the family moved to spend a winter in Vendon. The education was then finished in Vendon and Wadena.

Joe and Leona continued to farm at Meadow Bank until 1975 when they sold their farm and retired to live in Kelvington where they still reside.

Muriel married Harold Oberg from Vendon in 1958 and since then they have lived at the West Coast in the Surrey area. They have 2 daughters. Harold works with the Burnaby School Board and Muriel is a Telephone Operator in New Westminster.

Robert married Sharon Poncelot from Meecham in 1967. They too went to live at the Coast in the Port Coquitlam area. They have a family of three. One son and 2 daughters. Robert has his own plumbing business there.

Stanley Larson

Son of Mr. and Mrs. John Larson, who lived on NE ¼-7-36-12, for a short time. Stanley attended Rotnum School for only a short time in his first year at school. He was a cousin of Roy and Clifford Rotnum.

Stanley worked for some years in Kelvington at the garage owned by Vern Lowey. He was a mechanic of some fame and people sought his services.

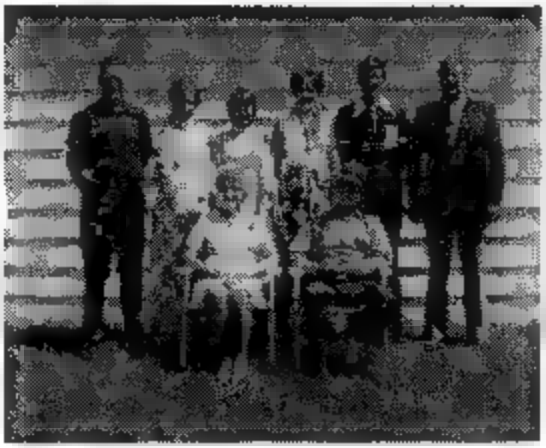
Mr. and Mrs Leonard Leepart

We came to the Duck Creek district the year of 1933 and farmed on the E½ of 23-36-12, north and east from the school. We left the district for a year, returning the fall of 1935 and remained for a short time until December 1935. Then we came to the Rotnum school district with our family of two Earl and Eilien and located on the S.W.¼ of 6-36-12, where we still remain. From 1941 to 1946 Faye, Nola, Ellery, and Darold joined our family tree.

Our family of six received all their public school education at Rotnum.

Submitted by Nola Doreen Hiebert.
(Leepart)

I never did like school, and I sure remember the first day of school. Mr. Harcourt sent grade I to the board and I was so shy I started to cry-- so he asked me what I wanted to do. I very shyly said " Go out and pay" I couldn't say play. The school kids all laughed as I went out-- that school yard was about the biggest and loneliest place in the whole world. I hated school ever since.



Earl, Eileen, Faye, Lorne
Darold
Mr. and Mrs. Leepart.

I guess my first and bad experience marked me for the following years, sure is funny isn't it? We played a lot of soft ball in all kinds of weather and and competed with neighbouring schools.

The sports field day was always something to look forward to. Everyone was usually packed in to the back of someones pickup and drove to Wadena. I'm sure the Caragana bushes around the school could tell many, many stories... if they could only talk.

Submitted by Ellery Lorne Leepart.

It was way back in 1950 that I was introduced to the Rotnum School were I served my sentence.

Marcella Scramstad and Robert Ladubec were my other classmates Marcella was too smart for Robert and I, so she soon left us trailing in the dust, Robert and I were buddies all the way through school. What a bunch of puritans in those days. I recall when we used to choose up sides and have coal fights. I've seen a few heads split open from battles, but what the difference "Boys will be boys"

It is a wonder I grew up to be an adult.

We used to travel the two miles to school by horses. I remember one cold morning, sixty below, when I froze one ear right stiff and thought nothing of it untill I started to thaw it out and that made me dance the disco before it ever was invented.

I remember when us boys had a dog at school and went hunting at lunchtime. One day we heard the dog yapping away and we knew he was chaseing a rabbit, we were all standing in a group stretching our necks looking for the rabbit to try and catch it. When all of a sudden ZAP here was the rabbit kicking, scared out of it's mind stuck between Bradly's legs. Well we all just rolled on the ground laughing and Brad stood there frozen with anunexplainable look on his face, the rabbit then kicked looss and continued on it't way.. This all happened so fast that it was actually over in no time.

As far as teachers ( cruel people) I don't remember how long I had each, first.. Wilf Harcourt, Frank McGrenera, Mrs. Gutek, and Don Leitch.

The big events as far as school was, while I was there was the conversion from wood oil stove, so you didn't come to school and no place to warm up if the fire wasn't lite. And find your ink frozen so you had to write with an unfreezable pencil until your ink got thawed out. And then the bussing of high school students until the final closeing of school.

I beleive the most thrilling parts for me was our concerts, that was really great. The first step to stardom. It's too bad that we were never discovered.

That seems to be all I can muster up for you outside of the Meadow Bank fields meets which was good competition.

Submitted by Faye Peterson (Leepart).

I was born to Leenard and Mary Leepart, to join a brother and sister, Earl and Eileen. We were later joined by Nola, Ellery and Darold. Our home after our short stay in the Wadena hospital was the S.W.¼ 6--36--I2, and still is home for my parents today.

Dad was born and raised in the southern part of the province being the son of a farming family. His family packed up and moved to the Kelvington area in the early 30's when the prairies became a dust bowl during the dry years.

Mom was born and raised in the Village of Invermay. Her parents Grandpa and Grandma Middelmiss, came to the new land of Canada, as newlyweds, leaving behind their homeland of Scotland.

My years at Rotnum started out with Bernice Mack, Barbra Whaley and I, in grade I. Our teacher for that year was Miss M.M.Nygaard. Grade II found us three girls still together at the start but in a short time we were joined by a new classmate in the name of Philip Gutek, Grade III, Barbra left us when her family moved to Wadena. That left Bernice, Philip and I in that grade to finish of the school years together. Our teachers for Gr. II-Gr.V inclusive was Mr. W. Harcourt, Gr.VI was a year when no teacher seemed available so we started taking correspondence couses at home, that didn't prove to satisfactory, so the school board hired Marion Allen and again we were back under the 9A.M. to 3.30P.M. school day and seemed to get more learning done. Later on in the year we got a teacher in the name of Mr. Frank McGreanery to finish of the year. Gr. VII and VIII saw us with a teacher by the name of Mrs.M.Gutek.

The fun time always was the return trip home after school. The first years were always a dump in the ditch when Earl with our horse and toboggan and Don Austring with his horse and toboggan always thought the end of a day of school was to get the horses trotting and then get the toboggan to swing into the ditch and have it hit a soft spot after frozen clumps of snow, which immediately spilled all us younger ones out into the cold snow. Never an injury but what an angry bunch of younger ones, that had to get back into the toboggan and have it all repeated over again if they found another frozen clump that caught their fancy.

When I became the eldest in the family going and responsible for the horse and driving, the fun became, to see who could get the outfits hooked up and the younger ones loaded and out of the school yard first. At times the gate posts were almost widened by the three or four single outfits that came out of it at full gallop Another interesting time was always the road crossing, with outfits going south, east and west and if you hadn't gotten into the right lane at the start,it was interesting to see who got the outfits stopped so another could get by in front to get into his right road Many a time you ended up on the wrong road for awhile in order to prevent an accident. An accident never occurred but the excitement always ran high until each got onto the right stretch for home.

In the wintertime our free time was spent in games such as prisoners base, Fox and Goose, Tag and of course each friday afternoon, our Red Cross program, when the business meeting was over with it was time for the entertainment program. All had to take part whether it be a song, recite a poem or just tell a story. Some boys unprepared just went up and stood for a full three or four minutes while the rest of us laughed at the stupid expressions. After that time the teacher generally got disgusted and told them to sit down.

There was also the yearly Christmas Concert to be put on by everyone in the school. The songs to sing, the lines to memorize for a recital and the parts for plays which always brought out the actor or actress in each of us. The fun times were in practice before the teacher,but the scary night was concert night when the

school was full of brothers, sisters, mom's and dad's, grandma and grandpa. When the curtains were opened it seemed to be just a sea of faces, the many times each of us had a complete memory lapse just from the shock of those faces down there. With the teacher prompting from behind the curtain, even the most frozen came to life, it was probably not as well as the practices but we always came through with the parts that had so ritually been memorized. It was ended with all of us students on the stage singing "HERE COMES SANTA CLAUS", to have him generally jump on stage and frighten us half to death with his "ho, ho, ho", but at least it meant we were done and could finally jump off the stage and to try to patiently wait until he called our name for our presents. Bags of candy, nuts, peanuts, apples and oranges, this was the final event for each of our Christmas concerts.

Another great time for most of us was the going of the snow, and we began practicing for fields day. The races, high jump, broad jump, triple jump, ball throw, discus, javelin and the team effort put into the relay team.

Rotnum School took the shield for Track Meet four years in a row. We had always understood it was ours to keep if we took it four years straight. We were very proud of our accomplishments, but were informed after our fourth year we could not keep it. As a track team we were more determined than ever to get that shield again. We did, and it finally became our schools to keep.

We also have a field meet at Meadow Bank Lake for several years. It was a more relaxed meet and each visiting was done by the parents as us kids battled to see who was to take first, second and third ribbons in our respective age groups. One year I was presented with a gold medal. A beautiful tiny maple leaf with M. B. P. on the gold strip through the middle, standing for "Meadow Bank Field Day". I am sorry to say I have lost it over the years, but surely would treasure it if only it would reappear.

Many a Friday afternoon in the summer were spent with soft ball being played when a visit from another country school gave us a chance to yell our lungs out and see if we could hit a ball or at times trying just to catch that ball were it ever so high. The pro's put on times they were. It also gave us another Friday afternoon off when we went back to return their visit. Some of the schools I can recall in our ball game exchanges are Willowglen, Wolverton, Praid and Westport, also Victoria Park.

To sum it up I think we had a carefree life as children living in the Meadow Bank district. It was and still is a community that is very open, very friendly and neighborly. May we always keep the tradition going.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Leitch

Ken bought N.E. ¼ 6 from O.M. Rotnum for one thousand bushel of oats at 20 cents a bushel in 1934.

Ken, Mary, Dav,Dianne
Allan & Gerald

Married Mary Rennie in December 1939, had a family of four, Gerald, Dianne, Allan, Bev.

We were in the beef ring like many Meadow Bank families. In the thirties when it started, Nick Althouse who was the butcher and cut up the beef. It was delivered with team and buggy. Later Hank Althouse took it over for his Dad. There were more cars in the country, so everyone took turns delivering. We like a lot of others had a share, then you took up your beef every other year. It was the only means of getting fresh meat in the summer months.

Ken took part in several three act plays. Put on to raise money for the hall. Lizzie Wright was the director. They would put it on in Meadow Bank,Hendon, Nat Mountain. It was a great change when the electricity came in 1948. Lights, fridges, etc. Ken was on the Rothsay School board and Councillor of Gasman from 1956 to 1971.

One of the social events was the Quilting Bee . Everyone had wool carders. Often the neighbors carders were borrowed and the whole family took their turn using them. When it was all done, the top was sometimes made out of different designs made out of material that was left from sewing. When everything was ready all the neighbor women came over to help quilt. The quilt would be completed before supper. As many as six or seven women would take part.

The Meadow Bank Ladies Aid often made a quilt which would be auctioned off at their annual Fowl supper in the fall, and would raise between $5 to $10 on the sale. They also made one and gave it to the Wallman family when their house burned down.

Then there was the blankets that were used for driving. Nothing went to waste. All the old coats and overalls that were past wearing were sewed together to make the top and bottom. Then all the old sweaters and underwear that couldn't be mended any more were used for filling. It was put on a frame and tied with wool to keep it all in place. There were such things as foot warmers that were used when riding in the open sleighs. Then came in the closed-in cutter which had a small stove and fire in it. They were a great thing. But you didn't see that well out of them, most of them just had windows in the front. But nobody minded because the horse always followed the road, and they would always take you home.

Submitted by Gerald Leitch

I was born May 23, 1941. They say that I took part in a play when ten months old. They had to have a baby and didn't

want to use a doll. They took me, but I didn't have to go to practice.

All the children went to dances and parties. When we got tired we were put to sleep on coats or blankets on the stage with the music. Meadow Bank had bunks in the kitchen made for children to sleep in.

I started school with Wilf Harcourt as the teacher. We had school bonspiels in Hendon rink every year. All the country schools in Hendon took part in it.

I was in the 4-H Beef Club. When judging was finished, we led our calves to the stock yards and went home. When the train came, our calves were shipped to Winnipeg. We had nothing to show for our calves but a ribbon until the cheque came in the mail.

When I finished school, I helped on the farm and am still farming.

Submitted by Allan Leitch

I was born March 12, 1943 and went to school at Rotnam. I took part in School bonspiels, field meets, ball games, Christmas concerts, Hendon 4-H Calf Club.

We had chores to do after school and in the winter time cattle and horses to feed, wood to carry. In summer milk cows to get home then turn the separator and feed calves. When I finished school I helped with farming. One winter I spent in a bush camp at Prince George. In 1945 Dad bought the NE ¼ of & from Pop Davis for $6500. in 1970. I moved there to farm and now am married and have two children.

Submitted by Dianne Leitch

I was born on October 18th, 1945 at Wadena Union Hospital, the first daughter of Ken and Mary Leitch. I started school in Rotnam on September 1949, with Mr. Wilfred Harcourt as teacher. Starting school with me that year was Ronnie Gutek, Raymond Leitch and harold Messenger.

I have many memories of those good old school days when playing, learning and other things as well.

When I was in Grade one and having trouble reading out loud to the class , Mr. Harcourt finally got fed up and asked me where were my brain? I calmly told him they were in my stomach. I'm sure he agreed with me. If I didn't learn to read in that first year at school, I got some good basic training in dancing. The oldest girls in the school, Jean Evenson and Eileen Leepart and maybe more, spent their noon hours dancing to the radio and very few records. I was one little girl that was glad when they asked me to dance with them and still enjoy dancing.

One thing I enjoyed about the old one room school was that

I played with all age groups. If it was a ball game, a game of prisoners base or auntie I over, it was very important to the rest of your team that you participated no matter what age you were or how well you were able to play.

There was always something going on, it may be a tack on your chair, or maybe a bit of water waiting for you to sit down on it. There was always the tickets to sell every fall, a raffle was held and any profit that was made was divided evenly between every one in the school for Christmas. That ever amount each child was allotted, you were able to pick anything out of Eatons or Simpsons catalogue, if it went over the amount you had to add to it to make up the difference.

Practicing for the Christmas Concert always meant that not all that much school work got done for the month of December. But every school had them and it was just as much fun to go and see somebody else's concert as it was to participate in your own.

There were many plays and lots of fun in the old school. The winter we had the Mexicans for a teacher, with the help of a lot of parents we made a stadium rink on our ball diamond. Many of us had never skated before and most of us got second hand skates. We took it like we were really something good, I now know that we did by the support we had from everyone skated and played on the rink, as the time I remember about that rink was filled with teachers and parents standing around and cheering a couple of boys. I'm sure if it was done today we would have a race for these two boys shaking hands in mid air and picking one another up when the bell rang to start the hearts better, but there were many days that we were glad when the bell was rung so that we had to go in and let our stockings relax after all the laughing.

Then we had to say good-bye to every one in school, after all they were all our friends. I can remember one year Gerald and Albert got a pair of skis from Santa Claus in 1912. From that a old road Flicka with the saddle and Albert cried around. Gerald didn't have it so nice as Allan and I were only to school too, so he had to ski we find the two of us pulled Father. The day we all left the school and at the same time also was all the peoples or their horses pulled us. Albert and Gerald each skied on their own. Allan gave Silver a slap with the reins and a round of his heels into Flicka. Then Albert remembered he hadn't said good-bye to the peoples so he turned back and hollered at her, then came to an abrupt stop. We had for got as there was a telephone pole there and ended up with a foot on each side of the pole and the seat in between. Because Flicka hadn't really gone and Albert wasn't hurt other than his wild moment of pride, but from then on Gerald was the first one that Albert said good-bye to every night.

School days in the old country school wasn't all learning, reading, writing and arithmatic, we also learned to play and work with others of all age groups, besides making many friendships that have lasted over all these years.

I married Glen Gradin in November, 1961 who was driving a transport out of Regina at the time. In 1962 he started working for the Co-op. During the fifteen years he worked with the Co-op we lived in Raymore, West Bend, Kelvington, Lintlaw, Saskatchewan, Swan River and Arborg, Manitoba, then to Landis, Saskatchewan. In 1979 we bought NW & NE 33 - 36 - 12 west of Kelvington and we are all enjoying the life of the farm. We also have a school bus which I drive.

We have four children, namely Elaine, June, Elwood & Sharon all attending school in Kelvington.

Submitted by Beverly Lee (Leitch)

I was born May 12, 1950 to Ken and Mary Leitch. I started school at Rotnum in 1956 and attended there until the school was closed in 1963. For my first six years of school I had D.E. Leitch for a teacher and for the final year I had Lloyd Nelson.

I have many good memories about my school days at Rotnum. The annual Christmas concert was the biggest event of the year. We always enjoyed all the hours of rehearsing - a good way of getting out of school work. Then on the big night it seemed like Santa was always late as he would get stuck on Sitko's hill.

Judy Tweidt, Lowell Tweidt and I started school together and graduated together from the Wadena Composite High School in 1968. In 1970 I graduated from the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Arts and Sciences with a Diploma in Nursing. While single I worked in Moose Jaw, Nanaimo, British Columbia and Saskatoon.

In 1974 I married Ken Lee from Invermay. We've lived in Watson, Kelliher and presently in Porcupine Plain where I'm working in the hospital and Ken is agent for Saskatchewan Wheat Pool.

Mr. and Mrs Seymour Leitch

Seymour Leitch was born in 1906 in Strathelair, Manitoba. He farmed there till 1934 when he moved to the Rotnum area. He bought a ¼ sec. of land(NE 5-36-12) from the Manitoba Gov't and married May Messenger in 1938. They bought the (SW¼ of 9-36-12) where they still reside. They have 3 children, Edith, Albert and Raymond.

Edith was born in 1939 and attended public school at Rotnum. Her first teacher there was Miss Florence Carlson (nee Lovdahl). She took her grade 9 in Hendon and the remaining high school in Kelvington. She married Earl Rud of Hendon and they moved to B.C. where they lived for 5 years. They moved back to Hendon and still make their home there.

Albert was born in 1941 and also attended public school at Rotnum and his high school in Kelvington. He worked at Hudson Bay for awhile and then moved to B.C. He got married there and has 3

children, Linda, Cindy and Douglas.

Raymond was born in 1943 and went to Botnum School also. He worked for Mac Scramstad at the Auction Market and then went to Thompson, Man. He came back to Hendon and worked for the Federal Grain and married Leona Bergman of Hendon. They moved to Canora where he worked for the Coop Creamery and was transfered to Regina. He has now moved back to Hendon and is farming with his Dad. They have 2 boys, Randal and Kevin.

## Mr. and Mrs Elof Linden

Elof Linden, his wife Ester and small son Sixten Sven came to Canada from Sweden the spring of 1907. They lived for a while with his brother Axel Angelson who had come out earlier and homesteaded on NE 12-36-12.

Mr. and Mrs Elof Linden

They homesteaded and started farming on NE ¼-18-36-11. There they dug 11 dry wells and still had to haul water or walk their stock to a spring some distance away. There they farmed till 1914, Elof working in bush camps and on railroad construction whenever he could be spared off the farm. Work days at these camps were long, work was heavy and wages one dollar a day.

Lumber camps were often lousy. There were no strikes those days, you either worked hard and shut up, or you got fired.

In 1914, tired of hauling water, they purchased NE 16-36-12 from Dan Morrison. Those lakes looked pretty good even if there were a lot of mosquitoes. Water was very important for livestock. They drove to Madena with oxen or horses to sell their products "eggs, butter, beef and grain" and to buy their provisions. In summer, they rode in rough wagons and in winter sleighs.

Before they had oxen or horses, Elof carried provisions including flour on his back a distacne of 20 miles. He also carried his first cook stove to his homestead. Years went on as well as could be expected, until the big disappointment of 1919.

Mrs. Linden had always wanted and dreamed of having a baby girl. When she was told it was another boy, She was shocked and saddened and I don't think she ever recovered. She named him Harry and put him in a dress. Dresses he hated. One day she had invited company, she put Harry in a dress and tied it on. He went outside, managed to untie and take the dress off and come in stark naked. I guess he really disgraced his mother that day. There were a few more of these episodes before he could finally wear pants.

Their first car was on Overland touring, I think it was made by Whippet. It had 30"-3½" tires it had short springs and was very rough riding. The roads were mostly prairie trails and mud holes. In winter the car was put away. There were no snowplows, antifreeze or heaters. No one had even invented the caboose with a stove. People rode in open sleigh boxes. They would heat rocks in the oven and wrap themselves in blankets.

When the railway came to Kelvington it made it a lot better for the people of this district. Later the C.P.R. came to Hendon.

In the early 1920's a fellow named Walter MacDonald worked at Lindens, he had a good memory and was very good at reciting the Klondike Poems. He later worked at Willard Halls.

A teacher named Henry Lowen boarded at Lindens in about 1924. Henry and Sixten removed the car body from a model T ford. They lowered the steering wheel, built another body of Vee Joint lumber resembling a race car. One day when Henry drove into the yard, he drove right into a new hay stack that the men were still building. Henry and the upset car were completely covered with loose hay. Luckily no fire resulted.

About 1927 Harry was chased off to Duck Creek School. "Could sometimes better be called Battle Creek". I wonder if some annual meeting minutes are still in the Unit Office. he had a pony called Queen. This pony was later sold to George and Garnet Setterlund of Wadena.

About 1927-28 the Distad family arrived from Southern Sask. They settled on SE 9-36-12. Along with the Distads came their daughter Inez, her husband Severt and their daughter Evelyn, "The Sundes" also Mrs Distad's brother Oliver. Evelyn attended Duck Creek school, later she attended Rotnum. Lindens and Distads spent Christmas and other festive days together. Mrs. Distad made Norwegian lefsa. Distad's other daughter Mable and her family the "Whipples" would sometimes come up from Spokane. Their son Stuart also attended Duck Creek school. Stuart also had ayounger sister.

Distads farmed here until Mr. Distad passed away in the winter of 1937. He was predeceased earlier by his brother Oliver. A few years later Mrs. Distad married A.F. "Anderson" store keeper from Hendon and later they moved to B.C.

Lindens had 2 nephews came out from Sweden. Leif Eliason coming out in about 1927 and John Eliason in about 1928. After learning the English language they worked out mostly as carpenters, sometimes coming back to Lindens for a time in the winter when jobs shut down. They were good woodsmen and put up a lot of fire wood for Lindens. Leif passed away in Ontario about 1957, at about 50 years. John lives at Kamsack, he is an excellent carpenter and cabinet builder.

In the winter months of the 1930's men worked on farms for $5 a month, many evening's were spent playing cards. There were dances in Meadow Bank every 2 weeks. The pay for the Orchestra was about $8 Admission, Gents-30 cents, Ladies--free, but please bring lunch. A gallon of Concord wine about $2.25.

One day young Harry was tree'd by a mad bull. He stayed up there, the bull at the bottom bellowing, bunting and pawing until Glen Meade came on horseback and using a bullwhip drove the animal away. Next day, the bull went to market.

Harry finished school at Duck Creek in June of 1935, he stayed out for one year, then quit Wadena high schoold in June, 1937. That was a happy day.

He stayed at Scott Branscombes. They were real nice people. He will never forget their many acts of kindness.

Tom Parish worked at Lindens for many falls until he got snatched up by a wifey. One day while threshing flax at A.F. Andersons farm, he accidently pitched his sheepskin lined coat into the feeder. Tom never wore that coat again. Some other local boys who worked on the outfit were Joe Ladubec, Ted Avery, Clarence Beckstrand, Tom Ross, Dan Bjerke and Ernie Leepart.

Olof Linden passed away Jan. 1949, age 68. Mrs. Linden passed away Dec. 1971, age 91.

Harry married Phyllis Lockie, 1948. In 1971 they built on SW 22-36-12 and lived happily ever after.

## Mr. and Mrs Edgar Lindsey

Submitted by Cora Forsythe( Lindsey)

I attended Duck Creek School in the spring of 1931 and finished Grade 8 and took correspondence for Grade 9 at school here. Grade 8 in 1931 was the last year to have to write governmental exams. Dorothy Weaver and I went to Wadena to write our exams.

My father and Mother were farmers at Meadowbank and were for many years. They came from a homestead North of Gravelbourg, Sask. They came to there from North Dakota in 1911. My mother's family name was Allan. My father and Mother were of Scotish, English and some Irish origin.

I went to many dances in the Meadowbank Hall and had wonderful times there,"many, many wonderful memories there". Phyllis Parish and I went together to C.G.I.T. and Eva Harrison was our leader. We had many good times there, we also used to go to church on Sundays in the Meadowbank Hall.

We only lived about 2 years at Meadowbank,and then we lived briefly at Nut Mountain, then bought a farm at Lintlaw and from there left for B.C. in 1935.

# THE FORMATION OF DUCK CREEK SCHOOL

There were quite a number of children in the area east of Meadow Bank Hall and parents were beginning to see the need for a school in which to educate their children. So it was that the Jonas Monson's who had a large family and the Dan Morrisons became involed in organizing a school district in 1907.

Mr. Figlen was one of the first board members and Jack Gowan the first secretary of the new school district.

It was to be located in the Rural Municipality #336. The proposed site for the new school was the NW ¼ - 14 - 36 - 12. They chose this parcel of land even if it was in a sort of no man's land because it would be central for the children concerned. Mr. Monson donated the land, feeling that because he had the most children, it would definetly be to his advantage.

They were given permission to build a structure 20 x 28 ft. with four windows on the 28 ft. side and the door on the 20 ft. side, with a window on each side of it.

The men of the neighborhood all pitched in to help build the school with Dan Morrison and Olaf Linden, and Elmer Ahl as supervising carpenter we believe.

The school was ready for occupancy on July 4th of 1909 with 11 children as beginners.

The name chosen for the new school was very original. A creek ran through the property and in the summer was always filled with ducks, hence the name DUCK CREEK .

# Duck Creek #2002

Miss Lizzie Lawrence was the first teacher on record in the registers from Duck Creek School. She taught in the year 1909 and had eleven pupils. Miss Lawrence had come out from Toronto College and boarded at Will Harrison's. As she had to walk to school, Mr. Harrison built a bridge of poplar poles for her to cross the creeks.

Miss Armstrong came out from Toronto College to teach at the Duck Creek School in 1910. She boarded at the Jack Gowan's.

Charles W. Robb taught at Duck Creek in 1911.

In 1912, Martha Branscombe, wife of Scott Branscombe, came to teach at Duck Creek. Salaries were not high, but it seemed like a small fortune as compared to the salary she had received in New Brunswick. She found her pupils dear and interesting people but her daughter was not able to recall names except for that of the Munsons. She presumes that her mother left teaching there in that year because of being pregnant with her first child but later returned to teach there when teachers were in short supply in 1915.

In 1913, Maurice Sanger came to teach at Duck Creek. He was bilingual, speaking French fluently. He boarded at the Harrison's. The story is told about the bridge over the creeks being undermined by a few of the prank-- sters in the school and one morning the supports gave way, dumping Mr. Sanger in the creek! He was in Regina at the time of the big cyclone in 1912, but he confessed he had slept right through the storm and when asked what he knew of the storm, he replied he thought it was only a heavy dew overnight.

Violet Cameron came to teach Duck Creek taking over from Maurice Sanger in October of 1913.

Jean Agar taught at Duck Creek in 1914.

W. H. Jones taught Duck Creek in 1915. He is remembered as an elderly man with experience. Esther Branscombe came to complete this term.

Goldie Ray Freeman came to teach at Duck Creek in 1916. He boarded with Mr. and Mrs Harrison and drove to school, taking the Harrisons daughter, Eva with him as she was ready to start school.

Esther Scott came to teach at Duck Creek in 1917. She boarded at Harrison's. In later years she married Pat Hendren and they presently reside in the Kelvington district.

Gertrude Gowan, wife of Jack Gowan taught at her home school, Duck Creek part of the year 1918.

In the latter part of 1918, Jeanne Blanc came to teach Duck Creek. She boarded at the Harrison home.

Eleanor McLean was a sister of Mrs. Massey, wife of Inspector Massey. She taught Duck Creek from 1919-1920 and boarded at the John Dehmidt home and went to school driving Albert Lancely's horse and Smiths top buggy. Later she boarded at the Harrison home.

Mrs. Hazel McQuarrie had been teaching school at Kelvington and came to teach school at Duck Creek in 1921. She was the wife of Andy McQuarrie whose home place is now farmed by Mitch Gavron. She drove daily from their farm home just a mile south of the town of Kelvington to Duck Creek and if weather was bad she stayed at the Fred Jones home.

Following Hazel McQuarries period of teaching, Gearge Philbin, a French Canadian gentleman came from Quebec. He had friends west of Wadena by the name of MacKinna. He had taught part of the year in Duck Creek in 1921 and then again in 1923-24.

Elizabeth Cameron, a Wadena girl, whose father was a grain buyer in Wadena, came to teach at Duck Creek in 1922. She later passed away at an early age following surgery.

Percy Heffern was the son of Mr. and Mrs John A. Heffern. of Kelvington. They operated a general store and the post office and also hauled mail from Wadena to Perigord in those years.

Doris Prouse recalls her stepfather, Ed Harmon being

hired by the Hefferns, one year to haul the mail over this route.

Percy, one of a family of eight children, attended Normal School and taught at both Rotnum and Duck Creek. He taught Duck Creek in 1926 when Mr. Jones, gave up his oil business and left Kelvington, Perry took over, later going to Procupine where he operated a store for a time.

He married Florence Duplesse of Perigord. Perry had been a very valued employee of AIR CANADA in Toronto and had reached retirement with them, when he passed away. Mrs. Heffern still lives on in Toronto.

S. J. McLellan came to teach Duck Creek in 1926-1927 for part of the term. She boarded at Fegolin's then later at Elif Linden's.

Mrs Edith Palm came to teach taking over duties from Mr. McLellan. She was the wife of August Palm. They had two sons, Roland and Kenneth. After teaching school at Duck Creek in 1927 she moved to Wolverton to teach. There was now a teacherage at Duck Creek so the family was able to live there.

W. F. MacKennie taught at Duck Creek in 1928-29 for part of the term. Rena Donald(Bien) remembers him as an elderly man who was her first teacher.

Mona McKay, whose father was an early settler and rancher in the Kelvington District came to teach in Duck Creek from 1929 until May of 1934. She lived in the teacherage in Pete McInnis yard. When she left Duck Creek she went to Foam Lake for a month of teaching. She later married Paul Gillis and went to Flin Flon where she still lives.

Eva M. Harrison, a local girl replaced Mona McKay for the month of June in 1934. She had taught at various schools until she married Charles Irving in Aug. 1934.

Martin Bordsen was a married middle aged man who came from Hazel Dell to teach in Duck Creek from 1934 to 1936. They lived in the teacherage and always drove their horse Daisy hitched to the buggy. Later they retired in B. C.

Amy Eskelson, came from Pasvegan where her parents farmed. She taught Duck Creek School from 1936 to 1939. She boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Irving, her parents with brother Bud would come to take her home for weekends. She married Franklin Brown a farmer from Norquay. They are now retired and live in Lethbridge, but spend their winters in Arisona.

Don Leitch, of Clair Sask. came to complete the 1939--40 term, taking over from Amy Eskelson who was leaving Duck Creek. He stayed on until June of 1941 , for more information see write up in the Rotnum story.

Submitted by Joyce Robinson (Haynes). 1941 - 1943.

I can truthfully say that although I left Duck Creek many years ago, Duck Creek simply refuses to leave me. Several times a year I have vivid dreams in which I am returning there to teach. Inevitably the dream progresses through the stages where I declare that this time I will have a telephone; this time I will have a car; a refrigerator; a television, and so on to modern day school equipment. At this point, moving sounds like too much effort, so I wake up and decide to stay with my position in Burnaby.

Country school houses were cold, austere places, but my memories of the people of Meadow Bank district are very warm and alive. They opened their hearts and their homes to me and as I look back, were infinitely patient with me, a novice teacher.

Looking back, I am apalled at how little I knew about teaching when I started out and I can only speculate as to whether Lloyd McInnes, Alan Irving and Glen Lowndes (my beginners) learned to read because of my help or in spite of it. I find difficultly to imagine how I ever taught without the books, materials and mechanical aids we have today. To duplicate material was a real project in those days of hectographs made of gelatin cookie pans. One sheet of paper at a time; pressed on and pulled off, with possibly one out of three ripping in the process. So little was available by way of visual aids and reference books.

It was wartime and many great things were done in the name of the Red Cross. At Duck Creek we answered our country's call by doing "woodwork". We cut, sanded and painted many "art" objects which the parents dutifully bought. We organized our own entertainment. A lot of fun was generated by a Red Cross turkey raffle at a Meadow Bank dance. We had jokingly agreed that if anyone in the play cast won the raffled turkey - we would have a turkey dinner at my teacherage. Ken Leitch won it and so we did follow through. Although the building was twelve by sixteen feet at the largest, sixteen of us gathered in that little place. Every square inch was occupied except for the stove. People brought not only food, but eating utensils as I wasn't equipped for grand scale entertaining.

The above mentioned play was quite an accomplishment, for a three act play we had to use all available "talent"! I must say we made a pretty good negro out of Harry Linden except that nobody

should ever expect a Swede to be able to say "foolin" with a southern accent. We took that play to both Nut Mountain and Hendon with teams, cutters and sleighs. I now realise that a lot of our communication had to be done through "Pupil Post" Many were the notes that Wilma Donald and I sent back and forth with Jean and Stuart.

Christmas concerts were not only social highlights of the year, but were certainly a training ground in responsibility, organisation, cooperation and public performance. Time lost to the three R's was probably quite justified in terms of life skills which were gained and the "big kids" (Shirley and Frances Wright, Jean Donald and Ronald McInnes) could tell me just how things were done- and on which day our scenery and props moved, over to Meadow Bank Hall for dress rehearsal. It was like hitting Broadway. I am amazed now that all children participated without question. What was expected of them, they did. Although they probably suffered considerably from shyness or stage fright.

The same was true of a ball team - all were needed, so all who were big enough played. I don't recall Duck Creek setting any records at softball.

The coldest weather I ever experienced occurred while I was at Duck Creek. When the temperature dropped to -54F, Charlie Irving arrived at the school to officially close it down. He packed up my freezables and me and took me home where I spent the better part of a week. I recall helping Eva to piece a quilt on her hand turned sewing machine, a novelty even then.

Coming back to the teacherage after being away for the weekend was always an experience. In summertime, it was simply a case of checking it out to see that nobody else had decided to occupy it in the absence but in winter it was a case of lighting the wood fire, keeping a coat on until the room warmed and pulling the bed apart to warm it in front of the oven door so that it would get the worst of the chill out of it.

Most weekends I managed to get "home" to Kelvington, but as gas rationing was on, it was a case of catching rides. A couple of times a year Wilma and I had well- organized weekends wherein she would bring her mother's sewing machine to my place and we would sew the season's wardrobe. The first of these was when we sewed her bridesmaid dress for Joyce McInnes's wedding and planned a shower for her.

I now wonder how I could ever have stayed alone for two years so far from the nearest neighbours and with no means of communication or transportation, but time went quickly then. My battery radio (purchased second hand for $10. with my first pay cheque) was great company, and I spent a lot of time writing letters to family and friends in the service. Fred Patrick's mailing service picked up at the Donald's mailbox.

It didn't worry me much when the coyotes howled, but I worried a little about running into transient skunks, but I was terrorized by the mice that were competing with me for occupancy of that house. I had to buy a mousetrap to deal with the mice, and I kept track of my successes. I caught 54 mice with that one trap! I have since told the story many times of how I caught 54 mice with one trap. It always seems to illicit the same question----"all at the same time".

I also had a great concern about fire with my gas lamp and tin stove pipes. Being so far from possible assistance, I always kept a coat within reach of door or window. Any frights I had were fleeting, a wagon load of Indians whooping and hollering through an electric strom in the middle of the night, a lone Indian who came into the yard but never did knock on the door, and the time I was awakened by a horse snorting right outside the open window at the head of my bed. I was relieved to see that it was just a stray that was mowing the school yard grass. There is just no way that I would like to live in those circumstances now, but I was young and very naive!

I always hope that my first pupils learned something from me, as I learned some valuable lessons from them.

Great events were far between at Duck Creek. I recall an airplane flying over, brought about my first lesson on the value of sarcasm in the classroom. So rarely did an airplane fly over, that I permitted the children to look out the window for a minute. After the others had resumed work, Alan Irving (a new grade I) was still craning his neck, so I said "Alan, have you never seen an airplane?) He answered "sure, but I haven't seen this one yet!", and he continued to look. I now know that children do not understand sarcasm, thanks to Alan.

My very first week of school yielded a lesson I've never forgotten. I rounded a corner of the school just in time to hear a string of invective containing a real concentration of four-letter words. Horrified, I asked, "What did you say?" He squimed and blushed and finally said"I just called him a dirty little-----" It was a beautifully modified version of what he had meant in the first place. I knew the moment, it was out of my mouth (What did you say?), that I didn't want a repetition, he knew it too.- a lovely comeback for six year old.

Many memories of those days seem like yesterday until I am jolted by the realities. The watch I wear to school daily was purchased from Howard Darbyshire in 1942 with my Duck Creek pay cheque!

Last Sept. had a very special moment for me. Peggy and David Rusnell arrived at our house with their new little son, and I greeted a fourth generation member of the Sandy Donald family. How could we have guessed so many years ago, that the chain of friendship would stretch over all those years!

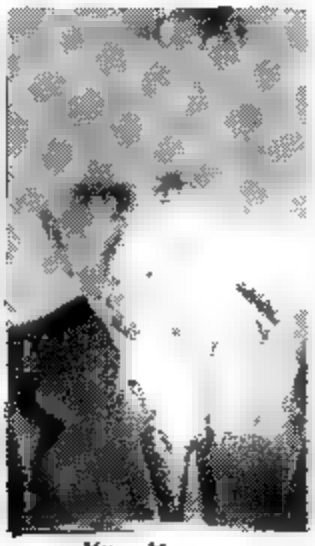
Betty Aylwood, came to teach Duck Creek, her first teaching position in 1943, staying on until June of 1946. She recalls travelling by train to reach her school, a ride that confused her in directions so badly that it left her for two years with the sun rising in the north and setting in the south. She boarded at Charles Irving's and she now is Mrs. Roy Atkinson. of Saskatoon.

Frances Guest, daughter of Ina and the late John Guest of Wadena, spent a full year teaching Duck Creek in 1945-46. She boarded at McInnes's and also at Avery's.
Frances is married to Mr. Ernest Hage, they live at Archerwill.

Marjorie Allen, she was born in 1903 at Glenboro, Man. to Dr. and Mrs. H.F.Whaley. She married Herman Allen at Bateman, Sask. In Dec. 1926. She taught the 1946-47 term at Duck Creek.

Miss Nora Churchill, came to Kelvington from Invermay and taught Duck Creek School in 1947-48. Upon leaving teaching she became involved with work in the Pentecostal Church.

Mr. Angus McDonald, was a married man with much experience and came to teach Duck Creek in 1948-49, the last term the school was in operation.



Mr. Massey

Norman Massey was school inspector in the area from 1918-1930. He served an area of some 50 miles, so his home was centrally located in the town of Wadena and the family home was the large house on the lot cornering 2nd street which in later years was the home and office of Dr. Fred Jones. His inspection area included both the Rotnum and Duck Creek Schools.

Mr. Massey was a very friendly but quiet person and a dedicated church worker, being a member of the United Church.

He had a family of six children so made good use of his large tennis court(located on the present site of the Del Narfason home) and the Massey home was always "open house".

In the early years he travelled by horse and buggy on his tours of inspection, opening and closing numerous gates, as the prairie trails of those days, usually wound across country and livestock had to be kept inside the fence. As roads improved, he was able to travel by MODEL 'T' car.

Miss Jeanne Hlane

Mrs. Edith Palm

Miss. Mona McKay

Miss Joyce Maynes

Mr. Martin Bordson

Miss. Amy Eskelson

Miss. Betty Alwood

Miss. Frances Guest

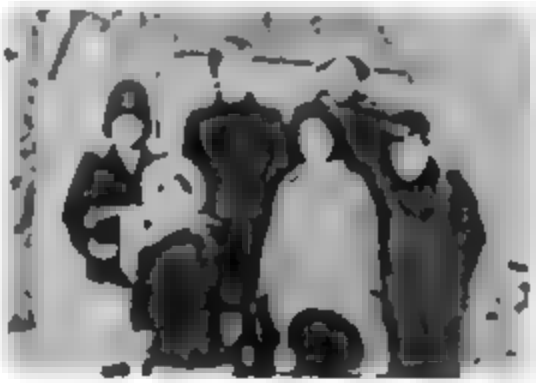
Mr. Don Leitch

Back row; Ronald McGinnis, Teddy Avery, Wilma Donald, teacher Miss. Amy Eskelson, Rosella Avery. Center row; Frances Wright, Jean Donald, Shirley Wright, Dennis Prybiloki. Front row; Gerald Schmidt, Ruby Avery, Tommy Moore, Amos Avery, Jamey Wright, Verna McGinnis.

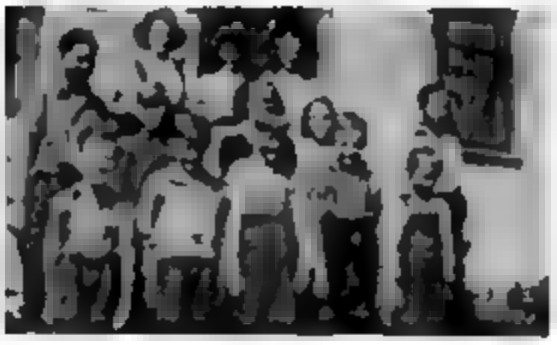
Last day of school Dec.19,1919. Back row; Orion Gowan, Lizzie Hope, Phyllis Gowan, Olive Gowan, Ruth Harrison, Eva Harrison. Front row; Gordon Hope, Sexton Linden, Cecil Hope, Albert Lancley.

1920 back row; Orion Gowan, Caroline Koch, 2nd row; Olive Gowan, May Fuller, Ruth Harrison, Katherine Messenger. Front row; Margret Gowan, Eleanor Fuller, Phyllis Gowan.

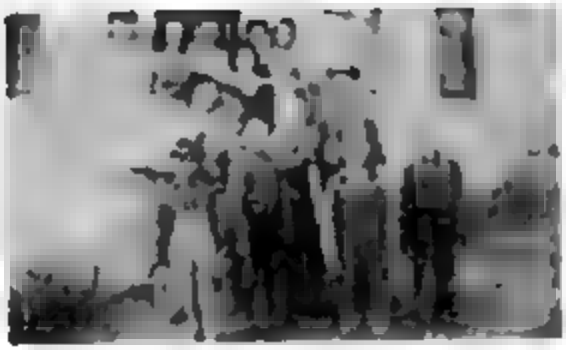
Class of '26 when Mr. Henry Lowen was the teacher. Back row; Eleonor Fuller, Phyllis Gowan, Caroline Koch, Van Gowan, Ern Fuller, Percy Gowan. Front row; Rena Donald, Edith Koch, Connie Jones, Ken Donald, Ernest Koch, Otto Koch, Sam Lancley, Albert Lancley.



1919 back row; Rose Ahl, Sixten Linden Orion Gowan. Front row; Ruth Harrison, Eva Harrison, Albert Lancley.



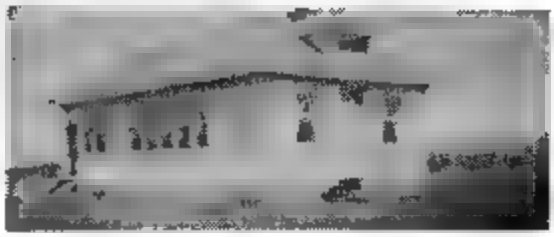
Duck Creek pupils of '42 or '43. Back row; Ronald McGinnis, Frances Wright, Shirley Wright, Jean Donald. Center row; Amos Avery, Verna McGinnis, Ruby Avery, Dennis Prybilski. Front row; Lloyd McGinnis, Jimmy Wright, Stewart Donald, Clifford McGinnis, Glen Lowndes.



Back row; Frances Wright, Shirley Wright, Ruby Avery, Verna Smith, Verna McGinnis. In front of Vera Smith is Miss. Betty Aylwood teacher. Center row; Clifford McGinnis, Stewart Donald, Amos Avery. Front row; Allan Irving, Lloyd McGinnis, Jimmy McGinnis, Glen Lowndes.

Fun and games were for all ages in all small country schools at any time. These pictures were taken at a Rotnum School Picnic, who do you recognize?

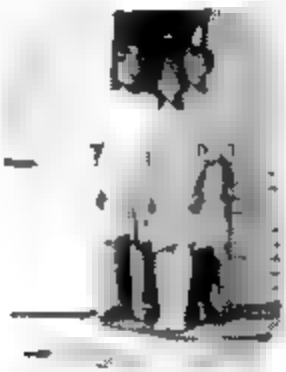
Back row; Ethel Bergland, Ellen Hanson, Clifford Rotnum, Art Hanson.



Rotnum School
No. 4347
Sec. 18-36-12

Front row; Leslie Garrison, Leonard Harrison, Selma Soderquist, Roy Rotnum, Dorothy Evans, Gwen Evans, Ruth Harrison, Linnea Hanson, Magna Carlson, Cliff Rotnum, Hans Hanson, Johnnie Evans.

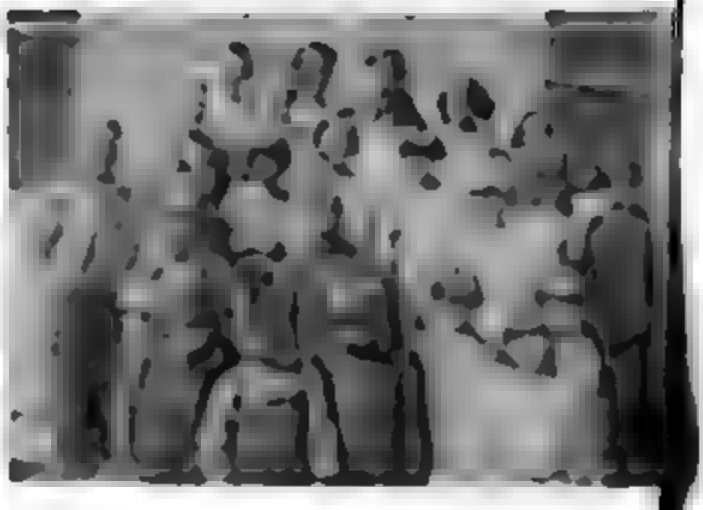
Back row; Charlie Spencer, Alf Twiedt, Mary Evans, Myrtle Torgeson, Linnea Hanson, Gwen Evans, Martin Ostlie. Middle row; ....., Mable Scramstad, Mable Garrison, Leslie Garrison. Next row; Leonard Harrison, Roy Rotnum, Mac Scramstad, Sylvia Harrison, Dorothy Evans, Lillian Torgerson,... ..., Edith Hanson, Alma Scramstad. Sitting, John Hanson, Bennie Twiedt, Melvin Twiedt, Sonny Evans.



Ethel Berglund
Ruth Harrison
Ellen Hanson

Rotnum pyramids were fun when Charlie Spencer was the teacher and for many years after

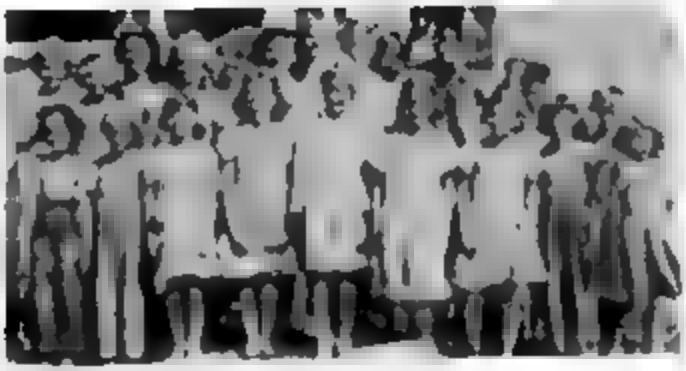
'27, back row; Alfred Tweidt, Ethel Bergland, Linea Hanson, 2nd row; Roy Rotnum, Owen Evans, Mable Scramstad, Olga Scramstad, Martin Ostlie. 3rd row; Leslie Garrison, Edith Hanson, Alma Scramstad, Dorothy Evans, Mable Garrison, Lillian Torgerson, Silvia Harrison. Standing in front; Mae Scramstad & Leonard Harrison. Sitting; Sammy Evans, John Hanson, [illegible].

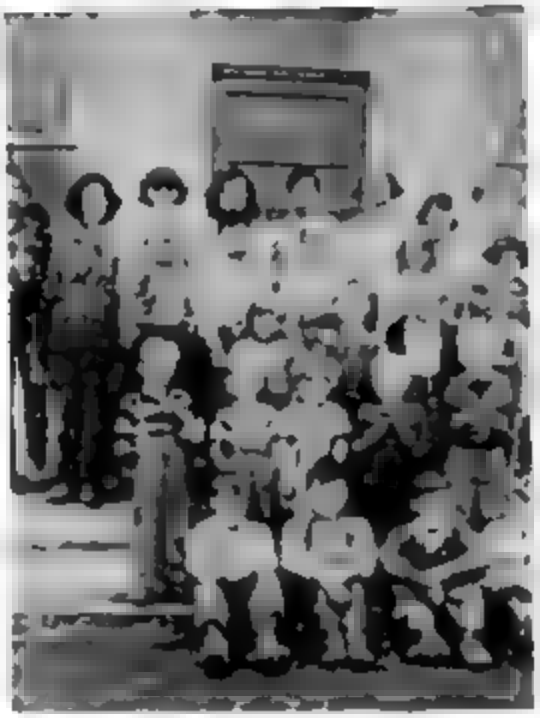


1935 back row; Edith Hanson, Silvia [illegible], Tweidt, John Hanson, Glen Ostlie, Alma Scramstad, Ethel Schau. 3rd row; Orville Kiland, Martha Nelson, Alida Malhum, Elsie Mack, Elsie Schau, Margret Evenson, Agnes Kiland. 4th row; Keith Harrison, Norman Schau, Violet Christianson, Ester Schau. Bottom row; Don Tweidt, Eric Mack, Verner Nelson, Beatrice Schau, Frances Torgerson, Luzella Malhum.

Rotnum 1931, back Lillian Torgerson, Silvia Harrison, Evelyn Sunde, Margret Peterson, Gladia Amos. 2nd row; Hans Peterson, Melvin Tweidt, Roy Rotnum, Bennie Tweidt, John Hanson, Sam Tweidt. 3rd row; Lavina Amos, Ethel Schau, Edith Hanson, Alma Scramstad, Glen Ostlie. 4th row; Elsie Schau, Martha Nelson, Esther Schau, Frances Torgerson.

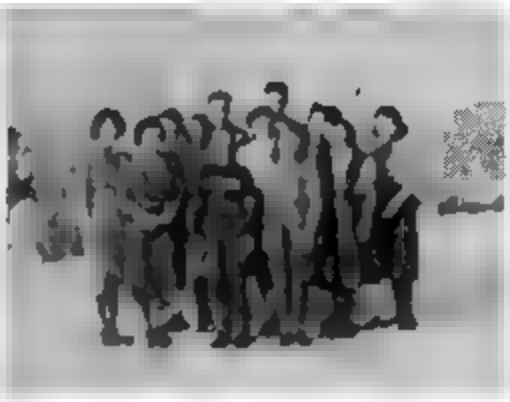
Class of '42, back row; Lillian McCowan, Don Tweidt, Olive Austring, Eileen Evenson, 2nd row; Jessie Winarski, Joyce Allen, June Austring, Raymond Austring, Evangeline Malhum. 3rd row; Gordon Mack, Earl Leepart, George Schau, Walter Schau, Jewel Austring, Noreen Mack, Norman Evenson. Seated; Birdie Wickstrom, Jean Evenson, Sigfrid Mack, Carlene Peters, Ray Schau, Lloyd Schau, Eileen Leepart, Marion Allen.





1948 class, back row; Noreen Mack, Joan Wickstrom, June Austring, Eileen Leepart, Louise Mack, Jean Evenson, Earl Leepart, Marion Allen, Leo Malhum, Norman Evenson, Peek-a-boo, Sigfrid Mack, Wayne Scramstad, Elmer Austring, Front; Bernice Mack, Faye Leepart, Carol Scamstad, Ida Messenger, Margret Malhum, Irene Schau, Helen Schau, Edith Leitch, Shirley Austring.

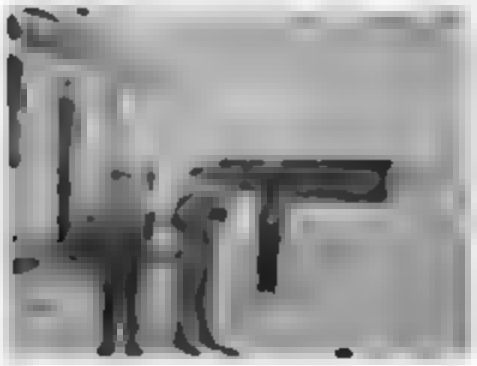
Valentine party 1954, back row, Philip Gutek, Bernice Mack, Faye Leepart, Diane Schau, Albert Leitch, Nola Leepart, Dianne Leitch, Marcella Scramsted, second row, Harold Gutek, Raymond Gutek, Allan Leitch Marie Twiedt, Arlene Schau, Marlene Messenger. Third row, Donna Twiedt, Wendy Ostlie, Brian Anderson, Gerald Ostlie, Darold Leepart. Forth row, preschool, Calvin Twiedt, Lowell Twiedt, Bev Leitch, Curtis Anderson, Bradley Scramsted, sitting, Robert Ladubec, Harold Messenger, Ronnie Gutek, Raymond Leitch.



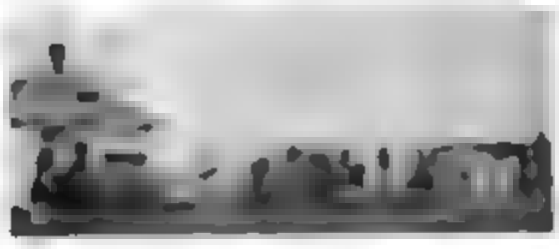
Grade 1 thru 4, 1952, back; Harold Messenger, Nola Leepart, Diane Schau, Gerald Leitch, Albert Leitch, Milo Malhum, Dianne Leitch, Center; Robert Ladubec, Marcella Scramstad, Ronnie Gutek, Raymond Leitch, Ellery Leepart, Leslie Mae Scramsad, Front; Raymond Gutek, Marie Twiedt, Arlene Schau, Marlene Messenger.

Grade 5 and up, 1952, back; Murial Ladubec, Shirley Austring, Margret Malhum, Carol Scramstad, Elmer Austring, Edith Leitch, Wayne Scamstad, Joan Wickstrom, Front; Philip Gutek, Faye Leepart, Helen Schau, Irene Schau,

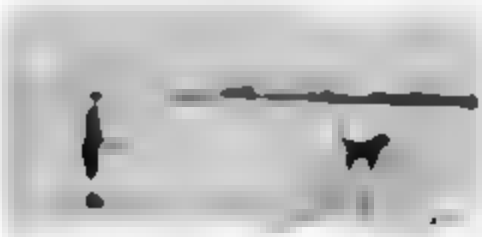
## HOW DID WE GO TO SCHOOL?



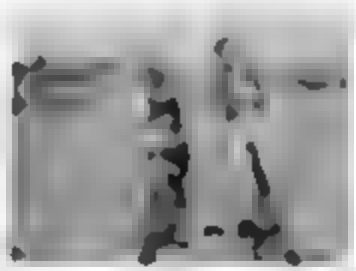
On skis, Don Tweidt, Verner Nelson & Norman Austring.



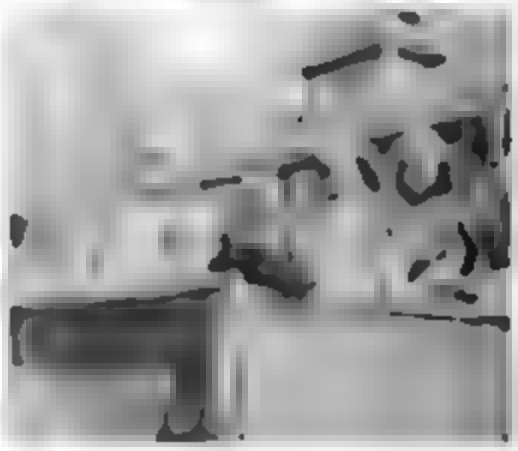
The horses were used in Various ways. Can you name the students and the horses?



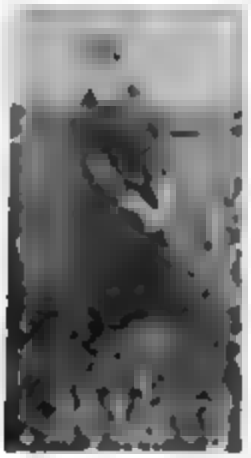
If Verner Nelson's arms got tired he would find help.



Gladia Amos, Mrs. Amos & Lavina Amos with their dog pulling the toboggan.



Track and Feild Day at Meadow Bank 1953. Wayne Scramstad, Philip Gutek, Milo Mahlum, Nola Leepart, Ellen Hagan, Faye Leepart.

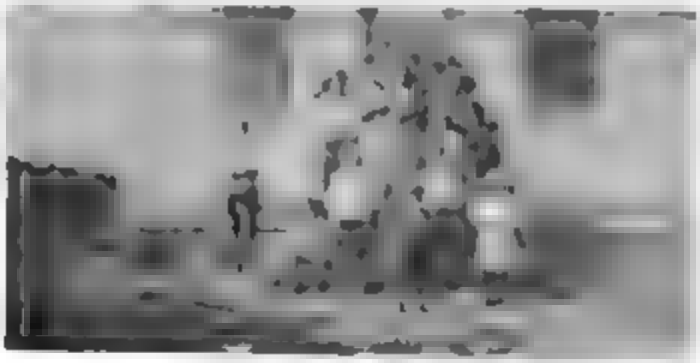


Miss. Jean Ingram

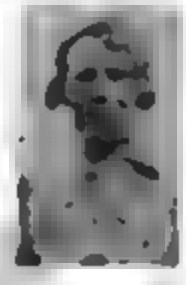
Miss. Mary Cherry

Miss. Elsie Price

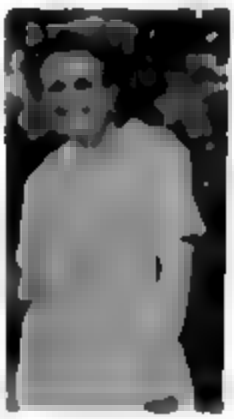
Miss. Gladys Burnett



Back row; teacher Mr. Percy Heffren, Art Hanson, Johnnie Evans, second row; unknown Mabel Tweidt, Magna Carson, Mary Evans, Gwen Evans, Alf Tweidt, unknown third row; Ruth Harrison, Sylvia Harrison, Dorothy Evans, Mabel Garrison, first row; Sammy Evans, Roy Botnum, Leslie Garrison, Leonard Harrison, front row; Edith and John Hanson, Clifford Botnum standing by window.



Mr. Charlie Spencer



Miss. Uneeta Bryant

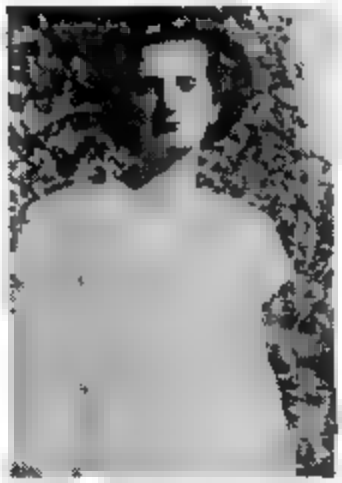
Miss. Ethel Dalshaug

Miss. Mabel Lindstrom

Miss. Ann Nickelson

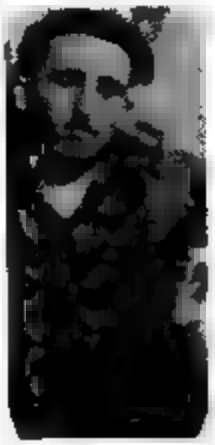
Miss. Mary Kinzel

Miss. Florence Lovdal



Miss. Pearl Wasyluk

Miss. Marjorie Nygaard



Mr. Wilfred Harcourt

Mr. Frank McGreneru

Mrs. Mary Gutek

Mr. Lloyd Nelson

# Rotnum #4347

Rotnum school opened its doors for the first time in the fall of 1922 with Miss Sommerfeld,B.A. of Saskatoon serving as teacher for two months. In later years she married a lumber yard operator from Kelvington.

In that same year, Jean Ingram of Quill Lake took over from Miss Sommerfeld and completed the term. Later she became the wife of Mr. Riley, whom she met when he was principal of Wadena school.

They had one son and by then were both teaching near Quill Lake. One Friday evening Mr. Riley went to pick up his wife and small son after the days work and at a railroad crossing near Quill Lake, their car was struck by an oncoming train, taking the lives of the entire family.

Jean had a brother Bryce who still resides in Quill Lake.

Bob Cameron of Wadena and a brother of Elizabeth Cameron, who taught at Duck Creek, came to open the school in the spring of 1923. He had not had any teachers training but taught under a permit granted him by Inspector Massey.

In the summer of 1923 after Mr. Cameron left Rotnum Miss Cherry of Davis, Saskatchewan came to complete the term.

Miss Elsie Brice came to teach at Rotnum in March of 1924 at the age of 17 years. Her parents farmed just on the southern outskirts of Wadena. She boarded at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hanson who lived on the SE ¼ 13-36-13 about ½ of a mile from the school. Her pupils ranged in age from 5 to 17 years and grades were from 1 to VIII.

Her sister, Betty remembers vividly the cold, cold winter and that she came out to help Elsie prepare for her first Christmas concert at Rotnum. This was to be a day of practising, but Mr. Hanson found after driving them both to the school by team and sleigh that the school house was so cold, it was impossible to have the children change into their costumes for practise, so he ended up taking all the school children and the teacher back to his house for their practise.

Betty also remembers her father then coming to take them both back to Wadena for the Christmas holidays, a drive of some 14 or 15 miles by team, but luxury of luxuries, he was driving the team on a closed in sled which in later years became the fashionable mode of winter travel.

Sad to say, Elsie passed away November 1st, 1930, following surgery.

In February of 1925 Percy Heffern took over as teacher, coming from Kelvington where his parents were in business. Percy also taught at Duck Creek school.

In 1926 Henry Lowen from Rhein came to teach at Rotnum. He and Percy Heffern were great buddies and part of the time they lived together in Duck Creek teacherage each going to his respective school daily, the remainder of the time each boarded at the Jay Garrison home. It is presumed they did not always walk to their school, as they owned a bicycle each.

Gladys Burnett taught at Rotnum School from the 1927-28 term, having taught at Alsask the previous year. Her home had been at Quill Lake where she received her education.

After leaving Normal School she had been the first teacher at Kingscourt school, north of Quill Lake, returning there to teach a second term later in her career.

She boarded at the Garrison home and recalls well the horse, "Roany" the family used to drive hitched to a buggy, their only means of transportation. She and Mrs. Garrison, she recalls, took off with old Roany and the buggy on a shopping trip, bound for Hendon, one Saturday in late fall. Their mission was to purchase goodies for the coming Halloween party at the school.

Gladys was a slender, dark, attractive looking lady and I (Mabel Garrison) remember thinking I'd love to look as fetching as she did when she donned a beautiful long sleeved red silk blouse, with rows of gathering at the cuffs & neck. Memories are beautiful!

So it is no surprise that eventually this lovely lady changed her name to Gladys Moore.

In 1938 she went to Meadow Lake to teach for six months in the Matchee district. Forty two years later she is still there living in a Senior Citizens home and enjoying her retirement.

In February 1928, a young chap from Prince Albert by the name of Charlie Spencer, came to take over the teaching duties at Rotnum.

Pleasant Thoughts of Rotnum - Chas. Spencer, Surrey, B.C.

In early February 1928, I received a phone call from Jesse Mahlum that my application for the position of teacher in Rotnum school had been accepted. Since my home was in Prince Albert he also told me that I should come to Hendon on an afternoon train from Tisdale, I would be met at the station and taken to my boarding place. On Saturday afternoon we rattled into Hendon and the elements gave me a rough welcome. There was a blizzard raging full blast and snow, inspite of shovelling was quite

deep when I stepped off the train, known for miles as the Creeper; was quite deep. I felt like getting back on! I didn't have a chance. A man walked up and said, "Are you the teacher for Rotnum?" I said, "Yes." "Well", he said, "I've come to take you to your boarding place." You know that short conversation began a friendship that continued, unbroken for the rest of his life. The man, was, none other than, Jay Garrison.

We had a sandwich and coffee and then away into the blizzard. Both of us were warmly dressed and we never ceased talking. He pointed places nearby and told me who lived there and whether or not they had children in school. You know it was really helpful to a young teacher. Late in the afternoon we arrived at Harrison's; where I boarded until the school closed in July, except for a month at Josef Hanson's because of illness at Harrisons.

When I arrived at school Monday morning there was a roaring fire, the school was warm and a number of students present. They were very polite, friendly and respectful. Another warm welcome. A few days later the board members came to the school to sign the agreement -- Mrs. M. Scrumstad and Axel Carlson. About 3 o'clock I noticed a lady walk into the yard and come up to the school. She came into the cloak room, which was not very warm, so I went and invited her in. She was apologetic for being early to the meeting but I prevailed on her to sit in the school while we continued work. At the end of the day I had her sign the visitors sheet in the register. Mrs. M. Scrumstad was the first visitor I ever had in any classroom. How I wish that register could be found! That was the beginning of a long, lasting and valued friendship.

Like all schools of that time everyone took part in outdoor games. In winter it was soccer would be forgotten and other games were played or other things tried. Many liked tumbling exercises and pyramid building. In spring as soon as the ground was dry baseball took over. Teams were chosen, usually for a day, with everyone, except the very small ones taking part. Of course home and home games were arranged with Orpington and Victore Park. Each person was responsible for his or her own transportation, usually it was co-operation that got one there. You went with some one else and next time you supplied the means of travel; if you couldn't you went anyway, you were needed.

Discipline. Lets shelve it, Students knew the rules and just didn't seem to need scoldings, detentions and strappings.

Examinations in grade eight were departmental papers. Candidates wrote at one examination centre established by the department, usually Kelvington or Wadena. I recall awaiting the results. In 1928 they were not good'only one out of three candidates were successful' but in 1929 and 1930 the results were gratifying -- 6 candidates wrote and passed(one with honours) in 1929 and in the following year three out of four candidates were successful.

We had a district picnic in July. There was always a good turn out. Not all the men were able to attend but every family was well represented. I have a picture taken at the 1928 picnic but I missed the 1929 picnic as I had been called into a cadet camp at Ft. Qu'Appelle and left the day of the picnic.

Christmas concerts - why spend a lot of time on the topic? Everyone, students parents and teachers enjoyed every minute of it, including the sometimes tiring practices but when it was all over you began to think of the next one.

During my stay at Rotnum I made many lasting friendships. You couldn't avoid it unless you were inclined to be a hermit. A student would come in and say, "You are to come home with us after school and supper with us." Those are the kind of things that makes one look back with pleasure to the time you spent in the district.

When I first came to Rotnum in 1928 I knew I had to return to Normal School for further training. The board knew it also and one day in June I was asked to meet the board. What for? I wondered. They asked me to return to the district as soon as my course was completed. What a relief! I could forget writing applications and return to a district, I really liked. I remained there until July 1930 when I left for a larger school.

It has been a pleasure for me to look back fondly to Rotnum. Truly I had an experience quite different from that experienced elsewhere but then the same is true of other situations.

HUMOUR

One morning two new students arrived -- grade one. I registered the girl, then the boy and was surprised both birthdays March 11, 1921, "Your birthdays are the same" I said. "Oh yes," said the wee lady "We're twins, Mr. Spencer."

There was a boy who came to school who didn't know any swear words. There was another who knew them all and he found that the first boy was an apt and willing student, who let out several resounding with his mother within earshot. She was quick to reprimand him and said, "If I hear anything like that again I'll tell Dad. He tried to beg off and said, "Don't! If you tell Dad I will catch Hell."

At the annual picnic in the married ladies' race I recall this one lady well out in front. Suddenly she came to a dead stop and walked off the track. Long after I found out why. She told a friend's wife she stopped because of her fear of tripping over her stocking. She had broken a garter!

Baseballs didn't last long. So some inventive soul said lets wrap it with friction tape. That's tough. We did and the boys got ready for grounders and I did the batting. That thing was heavy. It took an ugly hop after I had slammed it at my admiring student. It caught him in the knee and he went down as

though he were pole--axed. What grunting and groaning! After a few minutes he dragged himself to his feet and said, not very audible, but good enough, "Let me get hold of that black ---".

In Sept. of 1928 Charlie Spencer went to finish his course at Normal School, so Enid Campbell of Wimmer came to fill in until the end of December of that year. She too boarded with the Harrison family and remembers well their well built home of logs -- also their daughter, Sylvia, she was still attending school.

Miss Uneeta Bryant 1930-31

Miss Unetta Bryant came to the Rotnam district to teach in 1930-31. It was her first school and she had been born and raised in Moose Jaw and took her Normal School there. At that time there was very direct connections via C.N.R. from Kelvington to Moose Jaw and so her travelling was done by train. She boarded with the Garrison family and drove with the children to school with a horse and buggy and winters - horse and cutter.

Miss Bryant was of good moral fibre and I can recall her getting a few of us older pupils enthusiastically involved in trying out for Summer Camp - all we needed to do was memorize the entire Gospel of John and she spent many hours after school listening to us recite from memory. The only little fly in the ointment was, when camp time came, our parents were hard pressed to find the necessary funds for our transportation to and from camp, so we never did get there.

I recall one Sunday evening, when Miss Bryant was about to demonstrate her batting ability in our kitchen and she connected with a bottle of ink, splattering it all over her new dress. Mother rushed to the rescue by offering to soak the dress in a fresh jar of buttermilk from her recent churning of butter. I'm sure it must have had the desired effect for I seem to remember her being able to wear that yellow dress once more.

Memories of Rotnum School Aug. 1931 - June 1932

Ethel Dalshaug came in the fall of 1931 to teach in the little country school near the village of Hendon. When my train arrived at the station there was no one there to meet me, so a kind elevator agent(Mr. Johnson, I think) who happened to come along, took pity on me and gave me a lift to the home of Mr. Garrison, the chairman of the school board. Other members of the board were Mrs. N. Scramstad and Jesse Mahlum,the secretary-treasure.

My recollections of the school and pupils are good ones. Some of the names that come to my mind are; Roy Rotnum who was probably the oldest boy at school at the time; the three Twedit boys --Melvin,

Bennie and Selmar; two Torperson girls, Lillian and Francis; the Hanson twins, John and Edith; Alma Scramstad; Ester and Elsie Shaw; Glen Ostlie, Dorothy Ewans and her two brothers, Sam and Bill. There was also a Laplander family with a boy and girl attending school, Verner and Martha Nelson. One family moved away during the year, the Amos family with their daughters, Gladis and Lavine. Sylvia Harrison was one of the oldest of the girls attending school. Then there was Mabel Garrison who transported us faithfully to school through sunshine, rain, sleet or snow with her horse and buggy or cutter.

One of the first social activities of the school which I recall is the evening Hallow-E'en party. It was on this occasion that I was able to meet many of the fine young people of the community. Later there was the Christmas Concert, well supported by old and young alike. They applauded enthusiastically our humble efforts. The pupils sang lustily, though perhaps somewhat off key at times.

Following the Christmas holidays I returned to take up residence at the Josef Hanson home. During the winter we rode to school on a long toboggan which was rigged up with three little seats for John, Edith and me. Usually all went well. Sometimes when John's hands became cold, Edith or I took a turn at driving. One day when skirting the edge of a steep snowbank we upset the toboggan and spilled most of the water we carried in a cream can at the back of the toboggan. It was too late to go back for more water, so there were a lot of parched tongues at school that day. On cold days such as this, it was a great comfort to come home knowing kind Mrs. Hanson would have hot coffee or cocoa and lunch waiting when we arrived. When spring came we went back to travelling with horse and buggy with John as our capable driver. I'm sure he often felt like dumping us out, but he never did.

One of the spring school activities was the Public Speaking Contest. The one entry from Rotnum was Mabel Garrison, who returned with an award, thus bringing a little bit of honour to the little country school of Rotnum, and I was proud to have had a little part of it.

Who can say what part or what influence a country school teacher had in the lives of the pupils entrusted to his or her care? Each one, on maturing, is the result of the moulding of many hands, the guidance and influence of many other people with whom each comes into contact. To a great extent these influences determine the success or failure of each one.

My sincere wish for all former pupils of the Rotnum School is that their efforts be crowned with Success.

## Mabel Lindstrom 1932-33

The 1932--33 term at Rotnum was taken over by Mabel Lindstrom, who had been teaching near Algrove. Her parents were Mr.& Mrs. Taylor Lindstrom who farmed near Wadena.

She boarded at the Jay Garrison home, whose then wee daughter Sybil for many years referred to her as"the lady". It was while teaching at Rotnum that she met the cousin of one of her pupils, Arne Flostrand. She and Arne were married some time later and in the 1940's moved to B.C. They have a family of three children and are now retired, living in New Westminster.

## DON LEITCH

The 1933-34 term brought another young chap from Clair to teach at Rotnum. His name was Don Leitch and he stayed on until June of 1938. It will be noted that he returned again in later years to teach Rotnum.

Don Leitch was born and raised in the Clair district, son of Dan and Lizzie Leitch(Scambler).

He attended teachers College in Saskatoon and in 1935 came to the Rotnum district to take over his first teaching duties. In those years a teacher had an enrollment in a one room school, comprising Grades 1 to 10. We were in the midst of what was termed the "depression years" and his salary was something like $300.00 per year with room and board at about $15.00 per month.

For a time Don boarded at the Carl Hanson home, then to the Joseph Hanson's and later in his story he boarded with the Paul Mack family.

The 1939-40 term he taught the Duck Creek School and in 1940-41 taught Robbinsdale School, west of Rose Valley.

The 1941-42 term he taught at Rosetown and it was at the end of this term, he enlisted in the Air Force, working with radar control and was eventually sent overseas. When the war ended in 1945, he returned home in the fall of that year. In the spring of 1946, he began thinking of the quiet life that farming offered and so after looking at possibilities, he purchased the SE¼-41-14 which had been the Prediger farm.

As there was a shortage of teachers, it was not long before Don was again pressed into service, teaching at Victoria Park School at Hendon.

In 1952-53 he taught the Wooler School and it was during this time he became better acquainted with a young lady who had grown up in the Rotnum Area, Frances Torgerson.

On May 9th, 1953, Don and Frances were married in Lanigan, then in the fall of that year Don went to Moosehorn school, north-west of Hendon to take on the teaching duties.

The following fall 1954 a daughter was born to them in the Wadena hospital and father made the headlines of the local paper, as he ended up in hospital as well!

Two more children came to bless their home, all the while Don was teaching and getting his farm in shape.

In 1956 and because of a drastic shortage of teachers, Don returned to teach at Rotnum and remained there until 1962. At the beginning of his term a teacherage had been built in the school yard, so Don and family moved in for a time, instead of commuting from the farm.

In his youth Don had learned to play the violin and at many parties, he would entertain, one of the favorites being "Over the Waves."

When Frances was a child, she was always in demand for her singing ability, and so it was son Bruce inherited this, and at four years of age, with no trace of nervousness sang "The Big Swede from North Dakota" at one of his Dads Christmas concerts at Rotnum.

When the 1962 term ended, Don had expected to be able to give full time to his farming, but once again was called on to teach -- this time at Victoria Park.

Then in 1966, with health problems beginning to plague him, Don rented his land and with the family moved to LeRoy. He taught there until 1969, when he was forced to take life at an even slower pace.

Their three children a credit to the family. Linda a graduate nurse is presently in Cumberland house, Bruce in the plumbing trade works in Calgary and Sandra a photo journalist is in Vancouver.

Don and Frances make their home in LeRoy, but spend as much of their free time as they can at their cabin at Marean Lake.

## Ann Nicholson 1938-39

The term 1938-39 brought Ann Nicholson of Wadena to teach at Rotnum. Her father operated a lumber yard in Wadena and this was Ann's first school. As she relates - My Dad took me home for the weekends as long as the roads stayed open. I boarded with the Paul Mack's until their home burned down, and then I moved to the Joseph Hanson's.

I remember the different Mack families, the Hanson's, Tweidts', Allen's and Harrisons. The three Mahlum girls rode ponies to school. I remember quite a few others but can't fit names to them. Over forty years have passed since I was there and I have taught hundreds of kids in three provinces. The last thirty three years I have taught in Vancouver as a teacher of blind children. I am still doing this, but now we are in the public school system instead of in a school just for the blind.

Although I love Vancouver, I often think of my first country school and first country living and I am glad I had the opportunity to experience rural life.

## Mrs. Lillie Howitt 1939-40

Mrs. Lillie Howitt came to teach at Rotnum from August 1939 to June 1940. She boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Davis and one of her pastimes was playing the accordian. She now lives in Wynyard, Sask.

## Mary Clara Kinzel 1940-1942

I was Mary Clara Kinzel when I came to teach at Rotnum School for two years from Sept. 1940 to June 1942, coming from Rosthern.

I had just turned 19 a few days after I arrived and I was a scarred kid 160 miles from home. I boarded with the Davis family and he told me what an awful time the former teacher had, so this made me scarred than ever. Anyway I tackled the gang of about 40 darlings Grades 1 to 10 and I now have to admit it was one of the happiest experiences I ever had. The people in the district were great and in those days the school was the centre of the community. I had lots of work but lots of co-operation and enthusiasm. I often wonder now what I taught those poor kids - anyway I did my best which is all that can be expected of one - even if my salary was only $70.00 per month.

I recall putting on a play at Meadow Bank hall called "Too Much Mother-in-law". Mrs. Wright was our director and some of those taking part that I remember were Leonard and Sylvia Harrison, Joyce Maynes, Ken Leitch, Ken and Wilma Donald and Harry Linden. Gerald Leitch was the real live baby in the play and I believe we had a dog called Socrates. This took place in the winter of 1942 in Feb. We had fun and took the play to Rendon and Nut Mountain.

I married Doug MacPherson from Glenside, Sask. in Aug. of 1944. We now live in Saskatoon.

## Mrs. Margorie Allen

The opening of the fall term in 1942 found Rotnum school without a teacher so Mrs. Marjorie Allen, a teacher and wife of a local farmer came to teach for the month of Sept.

Mrs. Allen taught school in many areas. She was a conscientious person. Many times you would see her ride her horse or drive a toboggan down the road either to Rotnum or Duck Creek school. No matter how cold the weather.

Living in the Rotnum area, she also was school secretary for a good number of years. When there was any help needed in any way, she was always there with a friendly smile and encouragement.

She passed away on March 30, 1976 after spending the winter in Prince George.

## Miss Lillian McCowan

Following Mrs. Allen, Miss Lillian McCowan of Quill Lake came to teach, staying on until June of 1944. Her sister was teaching at Brand at the same time so their family would come for the two girls on weekends. Lillian boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Davis.

Later she married Ben Ferrie of Invermay and they raised three sons. They continue to farm at Invermay, although Ben is active in politics and Lillian teaches the kindergarten class in Invermay.

## Florence Carlson 1944 to 1946
(Lovdahl)

In the fall of 1944, I began teaching at Rotnum. There were about 30 students in grades one to ten. Those who were in grades nine and ten used correspondence courses so my help was mostly in the correction of their assignments.

The janitor work was done by the Shaws who lived near the school. Water was hauled for the water cooler. A large, low stove in the centre of the room provided adequate heat.

Those children had so much initiative! I never heard anyone ask, "What should we do?" Several children rode horseback to school. You may recall that there were several rows of cultivated trees around the yard with a generous space between them and the fence. One day I came to the door to ring the bell just in time to witness the horses and riders crossing the finish line in a "Rotnum derby race." There were also avid ball players and could hardly wait to get out on the ball diamond when recess came. One winter a small skating area was made. The only casualty was when Lissie Mack broke her arm. We did not realise this until her parents took her to their doctor.

I have often wondered how we managed to cover the year's work as we began practising for the Christmas concert early in November. There was always a packed school for this program. We were fortunate in having musical talent in our school as among others we had Noreen Mack, Evangeline Mahlum, and five Austrings.

Each spring, a school Field Meet was held at Meadowbank. We could not have attended except for the kindness of Mr. Carl Peters who gave of his time and the use of his truck to haul all the students and myself to the meet. Mr. Peters would only accept our thanks and gratitude.

For special days like Hallowe'en, Valentine's,and Easter, an evening party was held. The whole community attended. It consisted of vocal entertainment, games and contests. There was lunch which the ladies automatically brought. Our "coffee-maker" was Mrs. Austring who cooked it in a large canner. Advertising for these events was by "word of mouth as the only local phone was at Axel Carlsons.

One special event was when a public debate was held. The adults taking part were Mabel Scramstad, Norman Austring, Benny Tweidt and Mary Leepart. Mac Scramstad was the adjudicator, the judges were Don Leitch, Mr. Harrison, and Clifford Lee.

While in that district I was fortunate to board with a dear couple, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Davis. We played many games of crokinole and checkers when the evenings were cold or rainy. Their home was always open to welcome friends and neighbors.

Yes, those two years in the Rotnum district left me with happy memories of the warm hospitality and friendships which I found there. They greatly enriched my life.

I was also fortunate in having the so important support and backing from the parents as I endeavoured to teach and discipline their children. So I toast you, "Rotnum School Parents of 1944--1946 -- You were simply great!"

After Rotnum I taught at Morse for two years and in Rose Valley for twenty-four years. I retired in 1977

Elmer and I have three children. Carol and her husband, Steve Lane, reside in Regina. Jim lives in Saskatoon and so do Dale and his wife Shammi.

Time still flies for me as I now have time to do the numerous hobbies I enjoy and also time for visits with friends and relatives.

## Miss Pearl Wasyluk 1946-47

Miss Pearl Wasyluk followed Florence Carlson for the term 1946-47. She boarded at the Davis'. She is now married to John Koroluk and they live at Sturgis, Sask. Their son is a teacher at Margo.

## Marjorie Nyguard 1947-48

Marjorie Nyguard taught Rotnum School for the 1947-48 term and boarded with the Davis family. She had taken Bible school training at Two Rivers Bible schook, then located at Carlea, Sask. and she became a missionary candidate. She married Leland Snider and now lives at Bezanson, Alberta.

## W. J. Harcourt 1948 - 1952

W. J. Harcourt came to Rotnum School from LeRoy, teaching there from Sept 1948 to June 1952.

I arrived in the Rotnum School in the fall of 1948 and remained there four years. This was a long stay in a rural school for a teacher at that time. If I remember correctly, the School Board

members were Mac Scramstad, Chairman; Sig Scramstad, Secretary; Leonard Leepart and A. Austring. I borrowed $10. from Mac to get me through the first month.

My first year I boarded with Mr. & Mrs. Davis, a very quiet couple who looked after me first rate, but did have a very cold attic where a few stars peeping through kept me company on long winter nights. Much of the time in the four years, stayed at Ken and Mary Leitch's where I was like a member of the family. One winter I spent with the Paul Mack's where Mrs. Mack did her best to fatten me up. Another winter was spent with the Eric Mack's who were newlyweds. Here, they had the warm bedroom and I the cold one which I shared with an old black cat. I mustn't forget the two months I kept house in a granary in Herman Allen's yard. There was no doubt a good reason for shifting me about like this, but no one told me what it was.

About 30 students attended while I was there, most of them in Grades 1 -- VIII and a few who took correspondence in IX & X. The first year I had six grade 1's. They were, if I remember correctly, Nola Leepart, Dianne Shaw, Ellen Hagen, Albert Leitch, Gerald Leitch, and Milo Mahlum. In Grade two were Faye Leepart, Bernice Mack and Phillip Gutek. I could likely list them fairly accurately right up to Grade X. At that time in a rural school a teacher really got to know the kids. The relationship between teachers and students is much more impersonal today in our larger systems.

At Rotnum 30 years ago, Field Day was the big summer event. When I was hired, the board told me they wanted a sports--minded young man to improve their showing. Apparently Brand, Willow Glen, and Duck Creek were beating them badly. After 4 years, we did improve, but we sure spent a lot of time practising.

Christmas Concerts were a highlight of the winter season. From about Dec 1st we did nothing else but practise. I always found it somewhat nerve racking, but the kids certainly enjoyed it. It was an activity that has never been duplicated in our larger schools. All students were in the show; all the parents were there; in fact, the whole community showed up.

I will now mention briefly a few additional things I remember from my years at Rotnum, the long evenings spent playing whist when Eric Mack and I took on all comers, curling with the Leitchs in Hendon, the community play I directed at Meadow Bank which we took on tour(to Hendon,)(the cast was: Amos Avery, Ruby Avery, Noreen Mack, Marjorie Donald, Eric Mack, Raymond Coates, and Aubrey Booth) the night a group of us were involved in a neck-yoke party at a Hendon dance, the many presents from the kids at Christmas, the kids boxing in the wintertime, and the time a local farm boy came at noon to take on the teacher, the , one recesses playing ball and games with other schools, being the first rural school in Sask. to get power(this drew comment in the Western Producer), walking from Hendon bus stop in winter to Davis's in the middle of the night carrying two suitcases, pitching bundles and stooking around the district, arranging the teaching days so I could play baseball tournaments in May and June, being the champion

squaw wrestler in the Hendon bar, the hospitality shown me when the many families had me over for supper and an evening of talk or cards.

I could ramble on and on but suffice it to say that I have many fond memories of the people and students of Rotnum School. In my more than 30 years of teaching I still maintain it is the most civilized of all the communities I have worked in.

Marion Allen 1952

When the fall term began in 1952 Marion Allen, a local girl took over as a study supervisor until she left for Winnipeg. After Marion left, Jeanette Guest, Daughter of Mrs. Ina Guest, came to teach at the school for a month, putting the pupils on correspondence course so that when she left and the school had to be closed for the month of December.

In January of 1953 Frank McGrenera, after much deliberation concented to teach at Rotnum, boarding at the Mahlum home. Frank had served in the Air Force during the war and he owned a farm in the Lone Tree District north of Kuroki.

When the fall term commenced in 1953, Mrs. Mary Gutek, a teacher with plenty of experience and the wife of a local farmer, kindly consented to return to teaching again. She had children of her own going to Rotnum, so understood our dilemna. Mary stayed on to teach there until June of 1956.

ODE TO ROTNUM

A row of stately poplars, the corner of Otto's farm
Remind us of your past, your glory and charm.
With many a laughter, often sadness and tears
Mine was this pleasure for but three short years.
The tasks were many, the frustration no less
We aimed at perfection, we aimed at success.
The cold wintery rides, Carl's run-away team,
In Benny's bush the treehouse an architect's dream.
The spring brought laurels to Allan, Ronnie and Ray,
Meadow Bank field meet, their speed won the day.
The pie sale, the raffle, Christmas concert to prepare
Albert, Gerald and Philip and "The Little Red Mare."
The girl's sang, danced, recited with talent and poise
Parents applauded, Santa rewarded, my what a noise.
Back to the text books each new year dictated
The Juniors filled the seats the Seniors vacated.
Twenty eight characters the three Rs strove to master
Results were varied, fame, fortune, fun and isaster.
Classmates we were, friends we still are,
Some we see daily, others travelled afar.
Our memories of you, sad, happy, we share
Proudly we say, "Rotnum we were there".

Mary V. Gutek "53-56"

September of 1956 found us once again needing a teacher so Don Laitch returned to take over the school.

By September of 1962 a local boy had graduated from Teacher's College - so it was Lloyd Nelson who came to teach at Rotnum.

## Lloyd Nelson 1962 - 63

In 1962-63 I taught at Rotnum: it was my first year as a teacher and the last year the school was open. Many children from the rural community east of Hendon had entered the school during it's existence, but those in attendance during that last year will always remain special to me. I was nineteen years old and had completed the one-year Teachers' College course in Regina. The work involved in preparing lessons for students in eight grades was demanding and the annual salary of $2,700. was barely adequate to meet living expenses. However, the experience was rewarding in many other ways, and it confirmed an earlier decision to make education my profession.

What was Rotnum like and who were the students in 1962-63? The school was a one-room structure containing a small porch in addition to the main classroom. An oil heater had been installed near the back of the classroom. It kept us warm during the winter though there were times when the temperature was so cold that the only comfortable place was right next to the stove. During such times the students and I would hold our classes clustered around the stove. The walls of the school could not shut out the sound of a Saskatchewan blizzard. When a storm threatened to block the roads, the students were dismissed early. There were several severely cold days when my car would not start and were it not for Mr. Ben Tweidt, who drove to my father's farm where I was residing, I would have had much difficulty in getting to school on time.

In the spring the ditches near the school filled with water and, of course, the children would inspect the thickness of the ice in the mornings. I recall at least a couple of times when a child had either to go home for dry clothes or to dry his socks on a chair placed near the stove.

In addition to the main school room, there were several other buildings in the schoolyard. A teacher's "cottage" or residence sat vacant during most of my tenure because my parents home was only a few miles away and my mother's cooking far surpassed my culinary skills. A horse barn had been built about one hundred feet east of the school and had been much used before snow plows and school buses were commonplace in the Rotnum area. During my year at the school the barn was often used as a "playhouse" by the children especially the boys. I knew that a few boys would occasionally do a little smoking in the barn, but it was impossible to catch them in the act. They had the youngest boys serve as sentries and when I stepped out of the school the cigarettes would disappear. I doubt that I con-

vinced Bradley Scramstad or Calvin Tweidt that smoking might affect a person's health or even stunt their growth

One of the easiest things for a new teacher at Rotnum in 1962-63 was to learn the surnames of the thirteen students who enrolled. The reason for this was that ten of them were Tweidts, two were Scramstads and one was a Leitch. The enclosed photograph was taken at the end of the school year. There was only one student in each of grades 1,3,5 and 6, two students in each of grades 2,4 and 8, and three in grade 7. With such an enrollment a teacher is faced with numerous interesting problems, such as how to promote class discussions, how to conduct a physical education program, how to organize a school team for inter-school competitions and how to plan a Christmas concert.

A brief commentary with reference to a couple of the aforementioned problems seems to be in order. My students did not win many games in inter-school competition but they did have the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports activities including curling, touch foot ball, soft ball and volley ball. Indeed, most of the centralized schools of today would envy the rate of participation in school activities which my students recorded. And today's specialized drama teacher would probably be astonished by the enthusiasm of the entire student body in the rehearsals for and the performance of the series of songs, skits and plays which comprised the last Christmas concert held in the Rotnum school. Though few in number the students, with the strong support of their parents and community, were able to experience and, I trust, enjoy many activities and events that comprised an education in this part of rural Saskatchewan over a decade ago.

Rotnum school was closed in 1963. Its closure marked the end of a chapter in the education of the local children, but it also signified the beginning of new opportunities and experiences for the students who had been in the school during its final year. Perhaps this is what is meant by "progress", though for those of us who taught and studied at Rotnum we recognize that "progress" is not just a pure gain, For while something is undoubtedly gained something is also lost.

Personally, the year I spent at Rotnum helped me to appreciate more fully an important part of our cultural heritage - - - THE ONE ROOM RURAL SCHOOL

"ROANY". Many Rotnum teachers' transportation to school.

# First School Meeting

Public notice is hereby given that the first school meeting for the organization of the undermentioned into a new school district and for the election of Trust will be held on Saturday the 12th day of June at the house of T. J. Kidd.

The meeting will be called to order at 2 o'clock in the afternoon (Standard Time) The poll for voting for and against the district shall remain open only one hour Ten minutes will be allowed for nominating trustees. The poll for trustees shall remain open thirty minutes The boundaries of the district proposed to be voted upon include the following lands.

All of Sections 5. 6. 7. 8. 17. 18. 19. 20 in Township 2 Range 12. West of 2nd M. and all of Sections 1. 11. 12. 13. 14. 23. 24. in Township 26. Range 13. 2nd M.

Date of posting this notice The first day of June 1920.

T. J. Kidd
E. E. Hanson
Sam Evans
School Committee

# THE FORMATION OF ROTNUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

The proposal for this new district was on the 19th of June 1920 and the approval of boundaries was on July 5th 1920. The approvals were also received from RM's 336 & 337 at this time, Dick Messenger being on council.

According to the proposed district map of June 1920, the school site was to be on the SE ¼ of Sec. 13, Twp 36, Rge 13, W 2nd. Later the location of the school was changed to Sec. 18, Twp 36, Rge 12 as this parcel of land was given for the school site by the late Oscar Rotnum.

At the time of proposing this new school district, there were 16 children residing within this area.

The number of acres of assessable land was 8800 with a total value of $88,853.00.

Authorization was received on Oct. 1, 1920 for erecting the school. The board of trustees of the proposed school district were to borrow the sum of $4400.00(originally $4500.) for the purpose of erecting and equipping school, fencing and purchasing site, also building a barn. Debentures were to be repayable in fifteen consecutive annual instalments of principal and interest, at a rate not exceeding 8% per annum.

This proposal did not meet with the approval of the local ratepayers, so a reproposal was made on Feb. 2 of 1921 for a cost of $3000.00. It would seem that in the intervening time, a site for the school had been donated, so they were able to lower the amount needed.

Arras, Waddell, Rotnum and Garfield were the proposed names for the school district. Some of the ratepayers who had served in World War I had been wounded at Arras, France and felt this to be a fitting name.

Waddell was a local homesteader who played an active part in organizing the hall, church and school.

Rotnum was chosen in honor of the man who donated the school site.

The trustees for the year 1922 were as follows:

Jesse Mahlum - Chairman
H. Jay Garrison
Wm. Harrison
Sam Evans - Secretary Treasurer
G. F. Gillespie was the auditor

## Mr. and Mrs Fred Lowndes

The first time I saw Meadow Park was in Aug. 1934. After 5 years of drought at Lacadena it looked almost like the garden of Eden. We had seen nothing but drifting soil and Russian thistles all summer and the lush growth in this area was hard to believe. The decision to move to where such growth was possible was easy to make and a deal to buy the S ½ of 23-36-12 from Mr. Wenne Dannick was concluded.

A point that may be of interest in those days of high land prices is the fact that I bought the ½ section for 13,000 bushels of wheat, on share crop, with of course no interest payments. The idea being that if wheat prices increased, the seller would also benefit.

It proved satisfactory to both parties, since no buildings were on the land. The first priority was to put up a house. After our arrival with stock and equipment on Oct 1 st, which was unloaded in Vendon. The barn we built may also be of interest to some of the younger farmers getting established at todays prices.

I see from my records that we built in stages, beginning in 1935 and finishing in 1943. This was a drive through barn in which the whole load of hay was pulled off the side of the rack with a system of a rope sling, a pull rope which came through the top hole in the barn "shown in the picture". When one side of the loft was filled, the loads came in from the opposite side of the barn and the other half was filled.

The complete cost of this barn taken from my itemised records, $906.10. This included labor cost, cement and even the lightning rods. All local lumber, except shingles and loft doors.

Gladys and Fred Lowndes were both born in England. Gladys came to Canada as a baby, born in London to Fredrick Charles Rawlinson and Georgina Francis Her father was a United Church Minister in Saskatchewan from 1910 to his retirement in 1949.

Fred came to Canada in 1926 to Swift Current. After working on a farm there until threshing time, when he changed employment to work on a farm at Lacadina. After two years of employment he bought a five quarter section farm which he farmed until the move was made to Meadow Lake. One thing that pleased us very much, was the fact that Saskatchewan had a municipal Doctor and a hospital. Now we felt that we could afford to raise a family. In due course, Glen arrived, followed by Patsy and Leith. Jack was born after we moved to the Willard Hall farm.

The move was precipitated by the need for a bigger house, with power available. The E½ -23 was sold at this time.

Glen went to school at Duck Creek until it closed and after obtaining a Degree in Agric. He married Orlyn Hartzell. And joined me as a partner in the farming enterprise, which included the Dairy Business. After we retired, Glen bought back the E½ of 23.

Patsy also went to school at Duck Creek and later went to Normal School. She married Ivan Godhe. Taught school for about two years and then Ivan took over his father's farm in the Rose Bud area where they farm and have a Dairy Herd.

Leith was born on the old farm and eventually obtained a degree in Social Science. After graduation, she worked for the Dept. of Social Services in Regina, until she married Allan Perron. They now live on the old Dan Donald farm while Allan is in the livestock trucking business.

Jack, our youngest, was born on the second farm site, and after four years in University, married Carol Aultman of St Walberg. They had new while both were working for the Sask. Farmers Union. Jack is now farming in the Kelvington municipality.

We are now living in Kelvington and have 16 Grandchildren and two Great Grandchildren. But we still feel a part of Meadow Bank.

Although the south country is now enjoying good crops and prosperity, we never regretted the move. We fell that the district and Gate have been very kind to us. The Church services in Brand and Meadow Bank, and also the dances in the Hall, with the babies cradled up in the kitchen, and the steam in the barn filled with horses. All bring back many memories.

Submitted by Ladys.

Our two eldest children, Glen and Patsy attended school at Duck Creek, until it closed in 1940. The first teacher that we remember was Mr. Nordson. He and his wife lived in the teacherage on the school grounds. We all attended the " Closing Day Picnic". June 30th, held on the school grounds.

Miss Haines was Glen's first teacher, then Miss Aylewood, ( now Mrs. Roy Atkinson.) Miss Quest, Miss Churchill, Mr McDonald and Mrs. Verna Allan taught there as well.

Church services were held at Meadow Bank until 1962. The minister was Miss Crouch, when we arrived. Mr Parkema conducted the last service.

Our Meadow Bank "Ladies Aid" started up about 1930. We had a large number of members for many years, but only a few members now. We put on fowl suppers, bazars, weiner roast, social and amateur nights. The money we raised went to the United Church, the Wadena Hospital and the Hall committee, besides charities.

The beef ring was well organized when we came, and continued

into the middle 50's. The ring was set up by farmers in the area, and they would all have one beef animal to raise for butchering at the beef ring head quarters at the Altrouse farm. From there the meat that had been processed would be delivered to the membership. This way you always had fresh meat in the years that we didn't have deepfreezes.

During the wet years of '52 and '53, we and Drummonds operated a grain dryer, one of the first in the district.

Following is an exerpt from a household budget. April 1935

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Apr. 6..... | salt..... | .25 |
| " 24..... | 1 lb tea..... | .45 |
| " " ..... | 2 tins tomatoes | .25 |
| " " ..... | 2 tins salmon.. | .25 |
| ..... | 4 lbs onions .. | .25 |
| ..... | 1 can syrup .. | .49 |
| ..... | 10 bars soap .. | .50 |
| ..... | 2 tins lye .. | .25 |
| ..... | 6 bars toilet soap | .20 |
| ..... | 2 boxs corn starch | .25 |
| ..... | 2 lbs. raisins | .25 |
| ..... | Parsnips | .20 |
| ..... | 4 lbs. tapioca | .20 |
| ..... | 3 lbs. apples | .25 |
| ..... | 1 sack flour | 2.65 |
| ..... | 6 lb. meat | .45 |
| | Total for month | $5.29 |

Mr. and Mrs. Adam Mack.

Submitted by Doreen Tweedt (Mack)

Mr. and Mrs. Paul (Adam) Mack came to Canada in 1926, he came to Melville where Paul's uncle lived, to spend a year to see if this country. They left Germany, to seek a new life where it was greener. I'm sure that the, found leaving her families stand very hard to do. Paul, the eldest of a family of [illegible]. [illegible] (Elsie) the youngest of 10.

Dad had two brothers that had already immigrated to Canada. Mother left all her family behind. I can just see the tears, trying not to shed tears, and the farewells, with the idea of seeing each other in about three or four years time. Mother often mentioned the crossing, (her ocean voyage). She was so ill, the memory stayed with her all her life. It turned out that it took her fourty years before she made the trip back home. But the modern way was by plane, and she enjoyed that very much.

When my folks left for Canada, they both had their own idea as to what they might really end up doing. Mother wanted to live in the city and father wanted to be a train engineer, but it looks like they compromized and became farmers. Settling on S.E.-18-30-1W.

Mr.& Mrs."Mack's first Christmas in Canada

Before they came to this place they had been in the Duck Creek area. One of the biggest changes that came about then was, they decided to adopt a child. When mother went for her little one, Dad told her to bring one home that could be led by the hand; So when she returned from Saskatoon and was met at the Depot, One of the neighbors was with my Dad. Seeing my Mother decend the train steps, he called out "Look, Paul. This one is in a pink blanket". And there were tears of joy in his eyes as he looked upon his little daughter, Whom they called Noreen Paula.

It didn't take long, they decided to increase their family. And so their adopted son Gordon Wilhelm came to join this happy family.

I can remember moving to the Rotnum area from the Duck Creek area. The house was a two storey one just like the one on the other farm. But now we had a large grove of spruce trees, and needless to say, my brother and I could climb these trees like squirrels before long. Much to the wonder of our mother. The syrup from the trees got on all our clothing, and to have to wash them on a scrub board was hard work. But mother always had us looking like we were ready to go visiting. Mother was an immaculate "lady". Thanks Mom.

We have many happy memories of all these years. But there was a sad one in January of 1939, when we lost our home by fire. We had a teacher boarding with us at the time. (Miss Anne Nickelson) We all lost everything except what we were wearing, as we were over to the Joe Hanson's to visit that Sunday. But I think one of our loudest lessons we all learned from that happening was that every neighbor near and far, were our friends. We got every kind of help in every kind of way. I believe I was the luckiest girl around. I received 12 dolls as gifts. I'm sure every little girl shared their doll family with me.

Our barn door was one that you could open, either top or bottom half. As in any child's life time, when young animals came along, we were very excited. I can still remember the morning, when I arose and looked outside. There to my wondering eyes, a little colt put it's head over the bottom half of the barn door, greeting me. To this day all baby animals are a joy to behold. Even a gangly legged colt was cuddly, if you could catch them.

When I started school, I was not able to talk English very well. There for some of the words had a funny sound to them. I sure learned fast to speak properly, as the teasing taught me to. We had wonderful teachers. They gave us so much of themselves. I believe that school years are the happiest years of our lives.

The years now seem so long ago. Dad's parents came to Canada in 1928 and lived close to us. They were Valentine and Matilda Mack with Carl, Erna, Cristine, Elsie and Eric.

Mr. & Mrs. V.Mack, Gus, Crissy, Carl, Eric & Elsie, Mr. & Mrs.Willie Mack, Louise & Sifgried

I have the fondest memories of grandpa (Opa as we called him) sitting in his rocking chair and telling us stories in German. The excitement we lived, through his stories.

And grandma,(Oma as we fondly called her) was a petite lady, just under five feet tall. She raised a large family, and always had a big garden. I remember her flower garden was different from any i've seen. Her geometric designs were lovely.

Uncle Gus lived at home after he came became ill. When grandfather passed away, he moved to British Columbia with grandma.

Mother and Dad lived on this farm from 1936 to 1965, at which time my husband and I bought it. My folks moved into Wadena in April of 1965, and dad passed away on December 25th of that year. Mother lived in Wadena until her passing on December 3rd, 1975.

Gordon lives in Regina. His wife,Terry and his four children, Brian, Larry, Dennise and Carol. He works for I.P.S.C.O. as a draftsman.

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Mack

Eric Mack came to Canada at the age of one year. His parents farmed in the Nut Mountain area, then moved to the Rotnum area. Eric and his siter, Elsie attended Rotnum school.

After school Eric started farming. But ; in 1944 he and his folks moved to the Okanagan Valley in B. C. and had a fruit farm.

In 1948 they returned to their farm on S.W. 17 - 36 - 12. and lived there until he was married to Ruby Avery in 1950. They bought the former Tom Ross farm and then moved to Birch River, Manitoba in 1959 or 60.

Eric at present is Foreman of Frontier School Division maintenance crew.

Ruby has been very active with her home, working in the Birch River Hospital until it closed. She is an avid gardener.

Eric and Ruby have a family of three; Linda, Kirk, and Joanne. They now have five grandchildren. Both Linda and Kirk attended Rotnum school.

They had three miles to go to school. We remember the times Eric had an army jeep and he would be able to go across fields when even horses found it hard to do so. Also, he had a team of horses that were just rearin' to go. It took a lot of power to hold him down. Kaizer was some kind of horse, and with Tarzan the dog, he was a police dog and sure was a one man's animal.

Eric would walk in all kinds of weather to the neighbors south of his farm just to borrow a few matches.

(Submitted by Linda Beadle (Mack)

I, Linda Mack, attended Rotnum School from grade 1 to grade 3 completely. I remember the teacher, Mr. Don Leitch and I had only one. My classmate was Kathy Tweidt. I went to school there in 1958, 59, 60.

Linda became a registered nurse, is married to Micheal Beadle and has two daughters. They live in Bigger, Saskatchewan where Micheal is a train engineer.

Mr. & Mrs. Willie Mack

Willie came from Germany in July of 1927, and worked out for some time. In 1932 he met and married Charlotte Hensey of the Rockford area. In 1934 they purchased the original Otter farm from Carl Peters. They raised a family of three children, one son and two daughters who all attended Rotnum School. Louise, Mrs. Don Cunningham of Saskatoon has two sons, David and Robin.

Sigfried and his wife, Verna live in Wadena where until recently they operated the S. & V. Dairy Bar. They have a family of two sons and one daughter, Wesley, Sheldon and Tracey.

Bernice, Mrs. Harold Gordon lives in Saskatoon and have one daughter, Sherri and a son, Timmie.

Lottie and Willie sold their farm in 1975 to Ron Gutek and purchased a home in Wadena where they are now enjoying retirement.

Submitted by Vernice Ingram (Mack)

Vernice Mack born October 26, 1929, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. J. Mack of Nut Mountain, Saskatchewan.

I was 5 years old when I went to live with my grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. V. Mack who lived at Meadow Bank. From there I went school with Uncle Eric and Aunt Elsie Mack. This ws the fall of 1934.

I attended Rotnum school. My teacher was Mr. Leach. I got my Grade one while attending Rotnum school in the summer of 1935.

I remember only two classmates by name, Cyril Garrison and June Austring.

One of my pleasant passtimes was to sing for my classmates out behind the wood pile at recess. One day, Mr. Leitch, the teacher was casually walking by and heard me. I got called to the front of the class when the bell rang to sing. In those days I wasn't too shy, so did sing for the whole school. I still remember the song which was "I'm an old cowhand From the Reo Grande".

I always relate to my year at Rotnum school as a very enjoyable one, only wish I'd have been there longer. My big time was to ride Keith Harrison's horse on the way home from school. Ha, ha, what fun!

I married a young man from Kelvington, Bruce Ingram and live in Victoria, B.C.

Mr.& Mrs.Jesse Mahlum & Family,

Jesse Mahlum was born at Sacred heart in Benville, Minnesota. Together with a friend, Ivor Larson, he came to Canada in 1906 to take up a homestead in the Hendon district on S/ 14-36-13. This is the same quarter section where the Mahlum home is located today. We built a log cabin for his home and bought a team of oxen and a breaking plow to work the land. He was 18 years of age at the time. In order to get some money to buy a few groceries he cut many cords of wood and hauled it by oxen to sell in Wadena. It took most of the day to get there as the roads were poor. He slept in a building adjoining the livery barn overnight, buying a few groceries the next day before returning home. He only got $2.00 a cord so it took alot of work to make a few dollars.

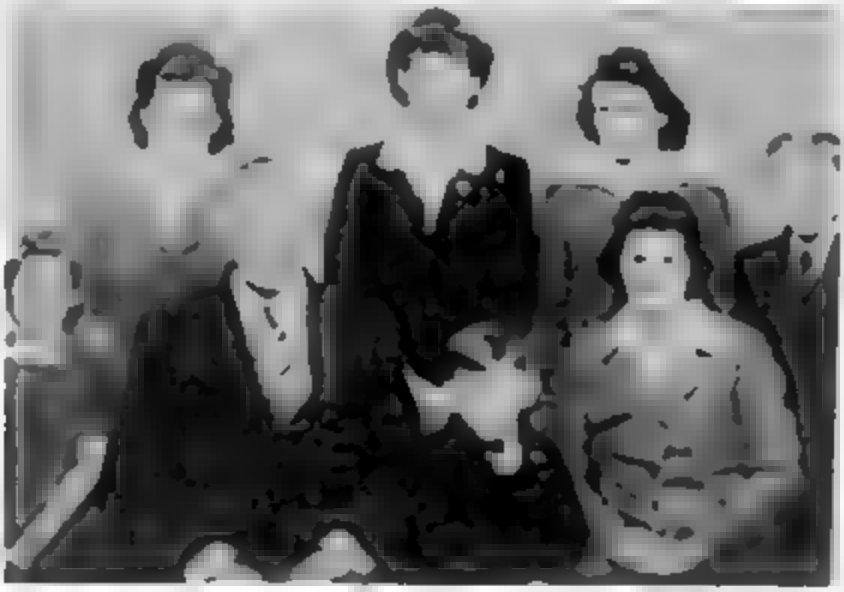
Rabbits provided the main source of meat. In the summer time duck eggs were fried many mornings for breakfast. Jesse baked his own bread for some time until Ivor Larson's parents came to homestead close by. The Mrs. Larson was kind enough to bake him bread.

Jesse served the district as a Rawleigh salesman from 1911 - 1914. He covered a large territory travelling with a caboose in winter and a covered democrat in summer.

He enlisted in the first World War 1916-18 to serve overseas with the infantry during the war. He was wounded in action on September 2, 1918 two months before the signing of the Armistice. He served in France 8 months with the 5th battalion. During his service with the army he was member of a tug-of-war team which won Canadian honors and was defeated only by an overseas team of East End police force in London, England. He was greatly pleased to receive a medal from the queen. He was discharged from the Army at Regina on February 8, 1919.

He was associated with the building of the C.P.R. railroad through Cadets and Verdun in 1912. He married Margaret Nelson June 2, 1920, daughter of the late Mr. & Mrs. C.A. Nelson who had taken up homesteading in 1903, 3 miles south of Verdun. They had come from Tordenskjold, Sweden to make their home in Canada. Mr. Nelson was a carpenter who built many homes, schools, and churches in the district as well as being in charge of the building of the Manitoba Legislature which is still standing today.

Jesse played a very active part in the community. He served for 20 years on the council of Lake View Municipality. He was on the board of the Cadomin Coal Company for 5 years. He served as secretary for the Prairie School for many years and later he held the same position for Rotnum School. He was well known in the district as a prospector up until the time of his passing in August of 1972. Mr. and Mrs. Mahlum raised a family of 7 children, all of whom attended Rotnum school.



The Mahlum Family

Alida married Helge Anderson of Brandon. They have a family of four girls and are now living in Wynyard where she is employed at the Wynyard Co-op as an office clerk.

Donna Anderson (daughter of Alida and Helge)

Donna Anderson was the eldest daughter of Helge and Alida (Mahlum) Anderson and while Alida was ill for a couple of months

Anderson and while Alida was ill for a couple of months and needed a rest, Grandma Mahlum took care of Donna, and sent her off to Rotnum school with her own children for a time.

Luzella - married Ed Staszczak of Fosston, now deceased. Has a family of four boys and one girl. She now resides in Hudson Bay.

Evangeline - married Elmo Anderson of Fosston, now deceased. Had a fmily of three boys and two girls. Is re-married to Les Szekely and now lives in Richmond, B.C. Employed by Canadian Pacific Airlines. The experiences I remember most were Norman and Raymond Austring always tying our Shetland Pony's tails together. At home time my pony, Maple ran away home two days out of five and my mother breaking the broom handle more than once on the old billy goat that wanted to go along to school too. Keith Harrison sat behind me and tried to get my pig tail into the ink well.

Dwight and Da'Wayne Anderson -submitted by the committee

Dwight and Da'Wayne Anderson were the sons of Elmo and Evangeline (Mahlum) Anderson of Fosston and spent some time in attendance at Rotnum school while their father was away working in Regina.

Their mother also had a job at the Wager's Cafe in Hendon, so the family decided to move to live for a time at the Grandma Mahlum home on the farm near Hendon, so that Evangeline could be close to work and the children could attend school.

A younger sister, Trudy-Lou attended for a short while as well, but she was a little young and as she would fall asleep in class, the teacher felt she still needed more time at home even though eager for school. Her mother decided to let her wait another year.

Leo - married Patsy Lipka of Fosston. Has a family of four boys and one girl. Living in Hudson Bay and is employed by Simpson Timber Mill.

Margaret - married to Victor Miller of Wozarc, Saskatchewan. Has a family of 4, 2 boys, and 2 girls. Graduated from Teacher's College in 1958. Taught for 8 years in Creighton, Saskatchewan. Living at Hendon on a farm. Now together with her husband owns and operates the Wadena Coin Laundry and Dry Cleaners.

Milo - married Marie Germain of Shell Valley, Manitoba. Has a family of girls. Lives in Wadena and farms the homestead. He is also an auctioneer.

## Mr. and Mrs. Peter McInnis

My parents Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pirie were born in Aberdeen, Scotland and came as children to Campbellford, Ontario with their parents.

My parents were married in 1880. In 1888, they moved west to Strathclair, Manitoba with their children. I was the third youngest in a family of eleven and was born in Strathclair in 1897. My parents farmed in that district for the remainder of their years. I attended a country school nearby and later worked in the Birtle Telephone Office until getting married.

Pete and I were married in 1919, in Shoal Lake, Manitoba and farmed in that district for seven years. Our oldest daughter, Joyce was born there.

In 1926, we moved to Kelvington accompanied by two of my brothers, Fred and Oliver Pirie. Fred remained in the district but Oliver returned home to Manitoba one year later.

We bought a half section of land about 7 miles west of Kelvington. This property is now owned by the Allan Irving family. We had very little to begin with and the first summer we lived in a tent until one of our cows walked through it one day and ruined it. We had later to build a small house but Pete was busy harvesting at that time. It was left to me to do most of the work of building a one room house before winter came. Later on we added to the house.

Our family consisted of four boys and two girls:

Corrinne Joyce was born in 1922.
Donald Victor was born in 1927.
Verna Lillian was born in 1931.
Clifford Morris was born in 1933.
Lloyd Gerald was born in 1934.
James Edwin was born in 1935.

In January, 1937, I was hospitalized in Wadena for 5 months with infection of my right hand due to an injury from a knitting needle. It was a difficult winter for my husband because he had 6 children ranging in ages from 1 to 14 to care for. Four were under school age and with no phone, electricity or running water, it was very difficult.

The neighbours were most helpful, especially Rena Donald who came weekly to help with laundry, cooking, etc. Also Mrs. Jim Wright took Lloyd and cared for him during that period.

We left the farm in 1952 and moved to Flin Flon, Manitoba. Our farm was sold to Charlie Irving. Two years later we moved to Brandon where we resided for eight years and then in 1962 we moved to New Westminster where we enjoyed our retirement years. My husband passed away in 1973 and I lived in Kamloops for six years after. Presently, I live in a Senior Citizens Lodge in Coquitlam, B.C. and enjoy travelling to visit my family and friends. I have 12 grand children and 5 great-grand-children.

My husbands parents also came from Scotland. In the 1880's they moved from Owen Sound, Ont. to a homestead at Moose Jaw, Sask. My husband was the youngest of five children. When he was 3 years of age his mother was killed by lightning so he was taken to Strathclair to live with his grandmother. His father died when he was seven years old and the family became split up and were placed with various relatives. It was 64 years before Pete was to see his oldest brother again. He grew up mainly on his uncles farm near Strathclair and was expected to work hard from an early age. In those days schooling wasn't considered as important as working and so he received very little education because he had to work for his keep.

When he was 18 years old he got a job with the Grand Trunk Railway and later on worked as foreman on a road gang from Edmonton to B.C. They used mules and slush scrapers then, not like today with all the modern equipment. In those days nobody ever worked on Sundays.

When we got married he left the railway and returned to farming again. My husband had the first threshing machine in the Meadow Bank district and Williard Hall owned a tractor so together they did all the threshing in the district for many years.

Pete served on the Duck Creek School Board for several years and was also a director of the Meadow Bank Hall for a few years. He was influential in buying the first hall and having it moved to it's location. Later on an addition was built on to it.

My husband was very fond of animals, especially horses. He had a skill in caring for sick animals and on more than one occasion when the veterinarian had given up, he was able to bring the animal round to a complete recovery. He was also successful in treating horses during the sleeping sickness epidemic. Also he was very good at decorating horses that were being shown at fairs and did this for many years.

During the long winters when the country roads were snowned in, trips to town had to be made by team and cutter or by closed in van. These trips were often long and cold. One Dec. 24th we went to Kelvington by van to buy groceries and Xmas presents. With us were Sam and Caroline Donald and Fred Pirie and as we were returning home, just outside of town our van upset and the team became unhitched and ran away. Along with our parcels we were carrying jugs of gasoline and coal oil and with the stove burning, we were lucky to get out alive and withno further mishaps. Fred Hinnie came along shortly after and gave us assistance, but it was bitterly cold and an experience never to be forgotten.

My husband enjoyed good health all his life and passed away at age 86 on Jan. 2, 1973 in New Westminster, B.C. following a short illness.

Submitted by Joyce (McInnis) Harrison

I attended Duck Creek School starting Grade 1 with Nora McKay from Kelvington as my teacher. I believe she was there 2 years. I also had as teachers Eva Harrison. Others I don't remember. I attended school for 9 ½ years and classmates I remember are:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rena Donald | Phyllis Parish | Steve Prybilski |
| Kenny Donald | Bert Parish | Shirley Wright |
| Wilma Donald | Percy Gawan | Frances Wright |
| Muriel Donald | Thelma Gawan | Rosella Avery |
| Sam Lanceley | Stella Prybilski | Teddy Avery |
| Harry Linden | Mary Prybilski | Amos Avery |
| Ruby Avery | Dorothy Weaver | |

There were also a Wayne Smith family and another Smith family who had 2 boys and lived by Lanceleys. I also remember a Margret, who lived on the corner south of the Meadow Bank hall about 2 miles. It seems to me she was staying with her grandmother.

Looking back, my memories of Meadow Bank are of the good times we had there. The picnics and dances in the summer, fowl suppers in the fall and Xmas Tree concert in Dec. The last week before the Xmas concert we went from school to the Hall to practise on the stage there. The night of the concert there was a tall Xmas Tree lit up with real candles. Santa came and gave everyone presents. I remember at the dances that at supper intermission, different people would entertain. Mr. Sandy Donald sang Scotch songs and Mr. Fred Jones sang Irish and other Scotch songs and I remember Thurlaw Gowan singing "The Preacher and The Bear" song. Many others helped to make it an entertaining time. People were kept busy with farm work but it was a social time too with threshing gangs to feed and wood-cutters coming in the winter to cut our supply of wood. The women got together in the winter to have Ladies Aid meeting and quilting bees. I went to the first movie in Kerdon. A silent movie called "Lilac Time." It was in the hall and we sat on chairs with the screen in the center of the hall. My Dad won a Radio from Drakecombes Store and it was great company in the winter. It was run on a Car battery. I remember Eva Irving holding C.G.I.T. meetings at her house, and it was through the C.G.I.T. meetings that I went to summer camp for 2 weeks in the summer. There I learned to swim which is something I still enjoy. I remember the Indians going past our place in the summer on their way from Fishing Lake to Watt Lake to collect their treaty money. For 2 to 3 days they went by in wagons and on horseback. Also during the Dirty Thirties people went by moving from Southern Sask. to north of Kelvington where they home-steaded and built up farms. I left Kelvington when I married Charles Spencer in 1942 and moved to Flin Flon. Charlie is the foster son of Mr and Mrs Fred Jones. We have 3 children.

Linda and Art Johnson have 2 children, Marnie who is 12 and Artie Jr. who is 15 years old. Linda is manager of Weitmans Store in Port Coquitlam and Art works at the Wellwood Mill in New West. They live in Coquitlam, B.C.

Lloyd and Linda (Klandt) Spencer live in Medicine Hat, Alta.

and have2 children, Dania Joy 6 years old and Russell Lloyd 2 years old. Lloyd works in the Co-op Store. Linda worked for Alta Telephones leaving to be at home with the family.

David and Barbara (Fleming) Spencer live in Kamloops, B.C. David is a qualified bricklayer and works for Afton Mines. Barbara is a receptionist for a firm of accountants.

I was divorced and met my present husband in Winnipeg. We later moved to Kamloops, B.C. and when Peter retired we returned to his home town of Winnipegoses, Man.

Submitted by Verna Lillian Cockerill (McInnis).

The McInnis Family

I was born in Wadena, Sask. on Oct. 22, 1931 and attended Duck Creek School from grades one through grade ten. I started school in 1937 andin Grades one and two my teacher was Miss Amy Eskelson. The other two in my class were the Moore twins--Jimmy? and Leslie. About the second year in school they moved with their parents back to England. I wouldn't have had any classmates in gr. three so I was allowed to skip that grade and go into grade four. My teacher that year was Mr. Donald Leitch and one of my class mates was Jamie Wright. We may have been the only two in that grade as I don't recall anyone else. In grades five and six the teacher was Joyce Maynes and in seven and eight the teacher was Miss Betty Alward. Grades nine and ten I took my correstpondence courses at the school with the assistance of the teacher who at that time was Miss Frances Guest. Grades eleven and twelve I took at Strathclair, Manitoba where I stayed during the school year with my aunt and uncle.

I was out of school for one year before starting my nurses training at St. Anthony's hospital at the Pas, Manitoba. I graduated in 1952 as a registered nurse and worked after at Kenora, Ontario, Virden, Manitoba. Calgary, Alberta, and Vancouver, B.C.

I was married in 1959 to Keith Cockerill from Winnipeg, Man. and we have resided in Kenora since then. My husband is a machinist at the Boise Cascade Pulp and Paper Mill here. We have two daughters Alana aged 16 and Daphne aged 14 who are presently in High School.

I have worked part-time for the past ten years at a nursing o here until June 1979 when I retired from nursing.

I have many good memories of my days at Duck Creek School. The biggest event of the year was always the annual Xmas concert at Meadow Bank Hall. It took weeks of practice to prepare for and always meamt getting a new dress, even if it was a home made one. The concert was always held in the evening and the hall was always packed with people. It was the biggest event of the year. In the summer there were picnics and ball games at the Hall or across the lake. Church and Sunday School were held at the Hall on Sundays during the summer months. In the fall there was an annual Fowl supper and bazar. Other enjoyable times were berry-picking and harvest time. Although there was lots of hard work to be done in the fall, it was the most enjoyable time of the year.

Submitted by Clifford McInnis

I was born in Wadena, Sask. on July 12, 1933. I was the fourth child of Mr and Mrs. Peter McInnis of Kelvington.

I attended Duck Creek School from 1939 till 1947.

I left my parents farm in 1948 to go north. I worked in various jobs in the north until 1953, at which time I joined the R.C.A.F. spending two years in Prince Edward Island. Upon discharge from the airforce I moved to B.C. and worked for the lumber Industry. I married Muriel Higgins of Coquitlam, B.C. in 1963. We have one son, Dwayne Peter born Sept. 1968.

We moved to Smithers in Northern B.C. in 1973 where I am employed by the Province of B.C. with the Ministry of Highways.

Submitted by Lloyd McInnis

I was born in Wadena in 1934. My fathers name wasPeter and my Mothers name was Lillian. I have three brothers: Ronald, Clifford and Jimmie and two sisters: Joyce and Verna.

I attended Duck Creek School till Grade 7 after which time I went to Brand and Kelvington.

I worked as a heavy equipment operator till 1957, then I joined the R.C.A.F. for 3 years. I have lived in Port Moody, B.C. for the last 20 years and am active in community work.

I have one son, Tom and a daughter Melody Jane.

**Submitted by James Edwin McInnis**

Peter / Lilly (Pirie) married in 1910 at Shoal Lake, Manitoba. They had six children; Joyce, Donald, Verna, Cliff rd, Lloyd, and last, myself James Edwin. My parents moved to Kelvington, Saskatchewan in July 13, 1926. I was born at Wadena, Saskatchewan in November 1935.

I attended Duck Creek School for the first seven years of school. I took grade 8 and 9 at Brand School. The only teachers I remember was Mr. MacDonald and Mrs. Aller. I remember while at Duck Creek School; myself, Lloyd McInnes, Glen Lowndes and Alan Irving hid the teachers horse in the bush, for the opportunity to spend the day looking for it. We ended up at Kelvinside School. We went in to see if anyone had seen the horse and ended up there for the next hour or so listening to a play they were putting on. We got back to Duck Creek School just before the bell rang and just in time to hail the teachers horse out of the bush.

My memory of Meadow Bank Hall was when dad and mom would take us kids to the dances. When we got tired of listening to the music we would go into the attic above the kitchen and sleep until it was time to go home. When we got older us boys would take our horses to the hall and at the end of the dance would race the old cars down the road. I remember coming home from school during harvesting time and if the threshing crew was close by, we would stop for coffee. There was always buckets of cakes, cookies and other goodies.

In the summertime, Lloyd, Clifford, Malcolm Donald and myself would take off Sunday morning with our horses and ride north of Kelvington. We would get home before dark, stiff, sore and tired. In the wintertime we would go coyote hunting. At that time we got $1.00 a hide. We sure didn't get rich.

In 1958 I moved to British Columbia where I met and married Alberta Burns in October 1960. We have two children; Beverley Ann born in 1962 and Sandy James born in 1965. From 1960 to 1974 I worked in a sawmill at New Westminster, B.C. In October 1974 we sold our home in Surrey, B.C. and purchased 10 acres at Vanderhoof, B.C. We moved up to Vanderhoof on April 1, 1974 where we are presently residing.

Jimmy, Malcolm and Lloyd

## Mr. and Mrs. Alf Messenger

Alf Messenger came to Canada in 1911 at the tender age of 5 years. He hailed from Staunton, Worcestershire in the Rural District of Newent, England.

Mary (Kaesmer)Messenger met Alf Messenger in 1928 in the Meadow Bank hall, where Alf was a drummer with the Dynamite Five and his brother Bert, the floor manager. Alf attended Duck Creek School. Alf's father and mother lived on the farm now owned and operated by Donald Peterson. There was a large family, to this union 9 boys and 3 girls and Alf was the second youngest son.

There was three children born to the Alf Messenger union. The Messenger children had an all white pony they called Jenn. and I am sure this pony took all the family and many of the neighbors children to school. In 1937 the Messengers fostered another child Joan Wickstrom, who is now Mrs. Chuck Halappee of Clair.

Alf Messenger was well known for his neighborly acts of kindness, he always drove a well trained, groomed team of horses. The team was named Bud and Dollie.

Alf loved to pick up a bunch of neighbors with the team and caboose and go to Meadow Bank Hall.

Alf farmed the SE ¼ of 5-36-12.

I recall so well when Harold and Marlene were young, they went to Little's to visit. It was just after a big rain, they were barefooted. The Little's were away, so the children went to John Skjonsby home, Opal took them in, washed them and took them home. We were happy to see them, so they went unpunished.

Amol; pictured on the left with his favorite horse Jenn. He drove Joan to school. He helped with farm chores and drove a tractor while on the farm.

Harold; married Nina Grenrude of Wadena, have a daughter Patrice, live in Surrey B.C. Harold is a Truck Driver.

Joan; (Wickstrom) Halppe live at Clair, they have five children, Brenda, Bonnie, Douglas, Dennis and Treves.

Marlene; Mrs. Ernie Erickson, they live at Rosetown.

Alf passed away in 1959. Mrs. Messenger and Amol moved to Wadena where they now reside.

Submitted by Marlene ( Messenger ) Erickson.

I, Marlene Helen Erickson. My fathers name was Alfred Messenger born at Staughton England. My mother was Mary Kacsmar, born at Esterhazy, Sask. My oldest brother is Amol, then Harold and one foster sister Joan. My dad was a farmer and lived on the S.W.¼ -5-36-I2. He loved trapping and Hunting.

My best friend was Donna Tweidt. My best experience was when I was on my way to school one morning. I rolled my caboose and horse (Jenn), as I was leaving the yard. My family and Ernie came out to see what happened. I was crying, looking out of my caboose. Ernie laughed at me. I threw a block of wood at him. Then they picked up the caboose and Jenn. Dad kissed me and I was on my way to school once more.

I went to High School at Wadena and later on married Ernest Erickson. We lived at Wiseton Sask. for one year. Since then at Rosetown Sask. We have two daughters. Janice, age I7, in grade I2. Verna age I6, in grade II. They are parttime cooks at the Voyageur. Ernie works for Co-Op Implements. I'm employed with the Rosetown Co-Op for over I5 years. In the Grocery Dept. Head cashier.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Messenger.

Submitted by Doug Messenger.

Richard James Messenger, born August I2, I866, in the village of Hasfield, Gloucestershire, England. Imigrated to Brazil at the age of 6, back to England 2 years later. Married Harriet Wood, July I2, I807, Imigrated to Canada in I900. Homesteaded in the Meadow Bank district. Farmed until I950. Was a member of the council of the R.M. of Sasman for 9 years.

They had 9 sons and three daughters, all born in England, except Walter who was born at Meadow Bank.

Children; James (Jim) of Fairlight, Sask.
Samuel (Sam) Thunder Bay, Ont. - deceased.
John (Jack) Meadow Bank - deceased.
Gwendoline (Gwen) Mrs. Arthur Weaver Kelvington.
Frederick (Fred) Carstairs, Alberta.
William (Bill) Wadena - deceased.
Beatrice Mrs. Fred Dunn Aylsham - deceased
Edwin Kelvington - deceased.
Herbert (Bert) Grand Forks, B.C.
Catherine (Cathy) Mrs. Fred Adams Kelvington.
Alfred (Alf) Wadena - deceased.
Walter Meadow Bank -, deceased.

Submitted by Bert Messenger.

I did not go to school for toolong at Duck Creek, can't remember the teachers. My parents came from England.Dad, Richard Fames

Messenger, in 1909 took up a homestead in Meadow Bank on NE ¼ 4-36-12. Mother and five children, Edwin, Beatrice, Herbert, Alfred and Catherine came in February 1910 to the homestead.

Father's trade in England was as a factory worker building steam engines.

My wife, Pauline and I live at Grand Forks, B.C.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Messenger

Submitted by Doug Messenger

Fred Messenger was born in 1889, at Staunton Worcestershire, England. He came to Canada in 1910. He had .25¢ in his pocket when he got on the boat. Bert Johns of Meadow Bank advanced his fare to come over to Canada. He worked his first year for Bert Jones to pay back the advance.

He joined the army in 1914 and went overseas. Came back on July 1919, then bought the N.W.¼ 18-36-11. He married Alice Marie Wade, on April 12, 1920 in Wadena. Had three sons and one daughter. Kenneth of Fruitvale, B.C., Douglas and Harvey of Calgary, Viola of Williams Lake, B.C.

Dad retired after farming for 40 years. In between his farming duties he had been active in Municipal affairs, serving as the Reeve of the R.M. of Basman for thirteen years and was also secretary of the Ratepayers Association of the Municipality for eight years.

He had a special interest in the field of Health and was a member of the Wadena Union Hospital Board and has been Chairman of the Saskatchewan Health Service Planning Commission and a member of the Provisional Board of the Wenoeda Park Lodge. In recognition of Mr. Messenger's service in Health matters, he was given the Smith Walmsley Memorial Award and Honorary Life Membership in the Saskatchewan Hospital Association.

Kenneth and Douglas went to Duck Creek School for some time. Harvey went to Lothian with the Allan girls for a couple of years. Viola went to Kelvingside school. Kenneth and Douglas finished their education at Kelvingside school. Harvey and Viola finished their elementary schooling at Kelvingside and Kelvington High School.

Mr. and Mrs. James Messenger

Submitted by Mrs. Mae Leitch

James Messenger came to Canada from Glostershire, England in March 1909. In England he farmed with his father and also drove a livery and delivered parcels.

When he came to Canada, he came to Cardale, Man. where he worked on a farm for a few years, than in 1914 came to Fenwood, Sask. He farmed there and married Edith Benyestory, she was born in Grennel Iowa, U.S.A. She had come to Fenwood with her parents.

Their first daughter Mae, was born there and they moved to the Meadow Bank area when she was a year old. They had five daughters, Mae, Mrs. Seymour Leitch of Hendon, Ethel, Mrs. Paul Schultz of Archerwill, Doris, Mrs. Bud Bridal of Wadena, Alice, Mrs. Wally Fidelak of Fairlight, Ida, Mrs. Wally Chubeck of Kuroki.

In 1946 Mrs. Messenger passed away. Jim then sold his farm and retired first in Wadena and then on Vancouver Island at Nanaimo.

Mr. and Mrs. Jonas Monson.

Mr. and Mrs. Monson homesteaded the N.E.¼ 36- 36- 12.

There were five children born to this union and all attended Duck Creek School. Katrina, Euphemia, Mary, Agata and Erhard (Richard)

Richard passed away in the 1970's and Agata had predeceased her brother. Agata was married to Albert Annett and for years lived in the Hendon District where they raised their family . Her husband has now retired and lives in Wadena.

Submitted by Mary Meade (Moore)

George Arthur Moore
Alice Maude Moore, family - Mary, Thomas, George & Leslie (twins) Lived on Section 15

The family came from England, lived in Manitoba through the 1920's, then settled in Meadow Bank 1931 to 1938, then returned to England

The father's trade in England was a car mechanic, mother's maiden name was Taylor, both English.

While in my teens, my three brothers were born. We lived on a small farm and in the depression of the 1930s. My folks could not afford a hired girl, so I stayed home to help my mother, so was not able to go out to work and earn money. My mother was in poor health for a while after the twin brothers were born. We lived in a two-roomed house, two small houses put together with a wide passage between them, big enough for a small room, which my father built on.

The lake ran through our land, ½ section, some of our land

on one side of it and some on the other side. There was a lot of bush on our land. My father used to chop down trees and bought a sawing outfit to saw the trees. The blocks of wood were sold. He also went places sawing wood for people. The neighbors used to come and help. My father had to chop down trees and clear and break the land so we could have more crop. By this time he was in ill health. I remember how the lake used to freeze deep. People came from miles around with ice saws to cut the ice into blocks and load it onto their sleighs to take home to melt it for soft water.

One day a friend of ours, Jim Wright was cutting ice and slipped and fell with his arm on the saw. He cut his arm badly. In winter my father would go to the lake and chop a hole through the ice so we could take the cows and horses down to drink. My father built a log barn which was quite warm.

We used to walk a quarter of a mile to the mail box on the road allowance twice a week for our mail.

Meadow Bank Hall has many happy memories for me, dances every three weeks, usually bridal showers, church services, etc. My 21st birthday was held there.

By this time, in 1934, I met Glen Meade from Bengough, Saskatchewan. He had come north with 100 head of cattle. He worked for a Rancher. As it had been a dried out year in the south, the rancher, Ed Hals sent his nephew and two hired hands with these cattle. They wintered them on the ½ section to ours which belonged to a cattle buyer, named Tom Brewse. Glen never went back to Bengough.

We were married in 1938 and held our Wedding Dance in Meadow Bank Hall. The Dynamite Five Band played for us. They were local boys who played for the dances, Thurlow Gowan, Layton Gowan, Wilton Gowan, Horace Newman and Clarence Masecar.

**Submitted by Leslie Moore.**

**The family name is Moore, my father's name was George Arthur and my mother's name was Alice Maud, but they are both deceased. My older sister is Mary Victoria Meade, my brother is Thomas and my twin brother is George. George and I were born on October 19th, 1931 at Wadena Hospital. We were baptized at the home of my parents at Meadow Bank, by Rev. A.W. Atkinson on November 16th 1932.**

**Our house was situated on Sec. 1, e Meadow Bank, but before coming to Canada my family lived in Hinchley, Leicestershire, which is an industrial town almost in the centre of England. My father worked as a car mechanic before going to Canada and my mothers family name was Taylor and they were both British subjects.**

**Both my brothers and myself attended Duck Creek School and our teachers names were Miss Eskelson and the Headmaster was Mr. Bordson. I do not remember very much about our school days as I was only at school for a short time. I can remember a few of our classmates,**

including Jamie, Shirley and Fraces Wright, the Prybelski family, Stuart and Jean Donald, Ruby and Amos Avery. My brothers and I attended Meadow Bank Sunday School and our teacher was Rena Donald.

In I938 my father was not enjoying the best of health and we returned to England in October of that year.

My wife Jean and I have two daughters and a son, I am employed in the hosiery trade which incorporates the manufacture of tights, socks, knitwear and underwear. The textile industry is the main trade in this area where I live.

Submitted by George Moore.

I was born in October in Wadena Saskatchewan.

I left Canada for England in the summer of I939 on the ship Montrose.

I went to Duck Creek school Meadow Bank and was taught by Miss Eskelson.

Duck Creek School was a Wooden building with only one classroom. Different grades were seperated by sitting in certain rows of benches. There was one teacher who taught all grades and ages. I was at the school for about I8 months and in the winter dad would get us there by toboggan.

Our house in Meadow Bank consisted of two wooden buildings connected by a covered passage. One building was used as a bedroom and the other was used for living in. The house was situated at the edge of the lake, and one winter they towed it across the frosen water, but didn't tell us kids in case we wanted a day off from school to help.

We had two horses, Buster who was lasy, and Nell. We also had a few cows and a dog. Buster died when he slipped in the stable and broke his leg. Dad dragged his body out and we used to pass the skeleton every day on the way to school. I remember that in the winter local people, and ourselves would get soft water by cutting chunks of ice from the lake and melting it down.

I remember the dances that were held at Meadow Bank Hall because when they went on late the youngsters like me were put to bed in bunks in another room at the hall. Some nights we went home from the dances in a "Caboose" which was a caravan on ski's with a fire in the middle.

I remember a man called Freddie Jones leaving an old engine in his back yard. He said he'd give me a dollar if I could start it. I never did.

There was a playing field with gopher holes in it. We used to try to catch the gophers at playtime. Another game was swinging from the rafters in the barn where the horses were kept.

Submitted by Tom Moore.

We lived on Section I5, At Meadow Bank. My father was a car mechanic

I remember my classmates as being the Wright's, Avery's Prybelski's and Donald families.

I was nine years old when I left the Meadow Bank area. I now live in England.

## Dan Morrison Family.

Submitted by Ben Morrison.

D.J.Morrison ( Dan ) homesteaded the N.E.¼ I6-36-I2, in I907. He sold this homestead to Mr. Linden in I9I2 and moved to Wadena. This land is now part of the present Linden farm at the east end of Harrison's Lake.

The Morrison's came to Sask. from Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Their forefathers came from Scotland to Cape Breton about I820. These people built their own sailing ships and crossed the Atlantic, duing a three month voyage.

Mrs. Morrison's maiden name was Jessie McMillan. She had been educated as a school teacher but enjoyed book-keeping. Dan Morrison was a very able and versatile settler. His people were engaged in fishing, lumbering and to some extent in farming in Cape Breton. He was well aquainted with hard work in the east.

On arriving on the homestead, he shouldered the logs about one-quarter mile to build the homestead house Shown in the picture below. His range of befitting language was greatly expanded while trying to operate a binder drawn by four oxen. However, the oxen were soon replaced by horses.

Mrs. Morrison, being skilled in book keeping took care of the first Post Office at Meadow Bank. Mr. Heffren was the mail driver from Wadena to Kelvington.

Mr. Morrison, Ben and Neil.

Many a small grocery and tobacco order was placed with the mail driver who had a marvelous memory. It was not necessary to give Mr. Heffern a list of things to get, you just told him. He would bring it on his return from town.

The Duck Creek School was built about 1909 and I think the first Meadow Bank picnic was also held in that year. This picnic was held on the N.W.¼ 15- on the north side of Erickson's Lake. Of these two events the Picnic seemed to be the more important to me at age 7. The Duck Creek School was operated during the summer months, and all the pupils walked to school. We had a fine young man as the first teacher. I remember he taught us to add rapidly. Then Mrs. Scot Branscomb taught us how to draw trees, not like the trees at Meadow Bank, but like the trees that grew in Ontario from where she came.

Then there was a short little fellow, Mr. Sanger, who taught us to sing a hym "Oh God Our Help In Ages Past" However, when I landed in school in Wadena, at age 10, I was put in Grade III. I could do grade V arithmetic; but I was very poor in reading and spelling.

When I attended Duck Creek School, many of the students were Monsons. There was Richard, Mary, Agata, Euphima and Eckert, the strong boy. I remember Dolly Burge, a most conscientious student, who walked over two and a half miles to school rain or shine. Sixten Linden and my brother Neil also attended part time. There were others whose names I can not recall. Of course we all took our lunch to school. We did not have anything to play with such as a ball. The girls stayed in a group by themselves while we boys did a lot of runing about the school yard.

There was a well with a green pump on it in one corner of the school yard. The water was not fit to drink; but it was cold and good for squirting on one another. The teacher used a school bell to call us in to that school room that always smelt like plastercine. We used slates for most of our work. It was expedient to keep scratching on that slate, silence was suspicious. All in all those days are pleasant to recall.

According to the calender, 67 years have passed along in close procession since I attended Duck Creek School and walked dreamingly in the fields of Meadow Bank. During that period I have wandered far and studied hard, and now I am retired from the Sask. Research Concil. My work in science started at Meadow Bank in that log house before the age of 8 years, it seems just like it was yesterday.

Submitted by Neil Morrison.

I was born in 1904, so it is a long time ago since I went to Duck Creek School. I have one brother Ben and one sister Eunice born in 1910, Ben was born in 1902.

My father was a carpenter also done blacksmithing on the homestead. Mother had the Post Office in our home.

Some of the experiences I recall going to school on the bush path and sometimes had to slow up to give a skunk time to get across.

Ben and I trapped muskrats on the lake alongside our home, got fourty rats the year we went to Wadena and got the big sum of 15¢ each.

The farming was all done by Oxen, I remember the first horse and buggy going by and the man look so contented and he was whistling. Also the first car, every one would say we saw the car, it was driven by Herb Perice, Member of Parliment. So you would only see this around election time. I guess we must have had a dry spell as there was no roads built for cars then.

I only went to Duck Creek school a couple of terms, I remember Mr. Sanger and Mrs. Branscombe as my teachers, we then moved to Wadena in 1913 as I went to a school on the N.W. corner of the school yard while the Red Brick school was under construction.

I am now retired and living at Flin Flon.

## Mr. and Mrs. Nels Nelson

Submitted by Martha Westerlund (Nelson)

My fathers name was Nels Fritröf Nelson, my mothers name Kristina, and we three children, Ingrid, Verner and myself. My parents came from Tarnaby Vesterbotten, Sweden. And were farmers, back in the 1920's the depression was also being felt in Sweden. So in order to support the family my father had to do hunting and trapping as a side line, besides farming. He shot fox and sold skins which were high priced then, sold our farm and made enough money to travel to Canada.

We were the first family to leave Vesterbotten for Canada. On 11th of May 1928 we started out on our journey, we travelled via Liverpool on an Ocean Liner called the "Montcalm" It took us over a month to reach Canada, land of our hopes and dreams. We came to Winnipeg and from there the Swedish Consulate sent us to Wadena, a Scandinavian settlement. Here Leonard Wreede met us at the station, and had arranged for us to live temporarily on the Beckman farm, opposite Ernest Lindstroms, for the remainder of the summer and winter. Here we met the Lindstroms, Richard and Martin Norberg and father worked with them during harvest. He also helped to build the sidewalks in Wadena.

We bought our first team of horses, and three cows at an auction sale in Clair. And in the spring of 1929 we bought and moved to our new home, five miles east and south of Hendon. Sec. 2- 36- 13, which my brother Verner farms.

In the spring of 1929, I started going to Rotnum School. My first teacher was Charley Spencer. My first day at school was not a happy day, I can remember how I sat behind that big stove and cried. Because I could not understand a word of English, but I learned that Edith and John Hanson spoke Swedish, also met Norweigan children like, Roy Rotnum, the Tweidt's, Scarmstad's and Ostlies. Mr. Spencer was very understanding and good to me.

Submitted by Verner Nelson.

Mr. & Mrs. Nelson

The reason why my parents left Sweden to make Canada their new home was due in no small part to the fact that the Canadian Embassy and companies such as the C.P.R. and C.N.R. wished to attract imigrants to Canada. And the benifits and opportunities of coming to Canada was greatly extolled through their brochures which was circulated in Sweden, as well as other European countries. Truly Canada is a land of opportunity, but had my parents known of all the other hardships to be faced in their new home land, it's doubtful if they would have immigrated to Canada when they did. For example, I can recall my dad regretting the fact that he sold his Russian Wolf skin fur coat for just a few crowns on his farm auction, prior to leaving for the new country, because he believed the climate in Canada was such that there was no need for fur coats.

My mother also bemoaned the fact that she left a big new home ( completed in 1927 ) and came to Canada, to live in a log house with no modern conveniences. So cold that in winter time the water left in the tea kettle over night would freeze. In 1928-29 Dad purchased S.E. 2- 36- 1). for $1600.00 cash. A team of horses for 450.00. some cattle and a modest amount of farm machinery. All at reasonably high prices as times were still good. But with the first crop to be harvested, came also the "big crash".

During the dirty thirties as some folks called it or the hungry thirties. It became more of a problem to survive each year. Rather than seize upon new and great opportunities of the new country. I have to admire their courage and determination to carry on, and also that of our neigbors. As the hardships of the great depression becam more apparent, so did the friendship and closeness of the community grow. It is something I feel that we miss now, when we reflect to the good old days. Sitting back in my chair and reflecting on now and then I find that then there was time to visit each other, no special invitation needed. Time for Sunday morning Church Worship, time for Sunday picnics and community ball games, weiner roasts, skating parties on the ice of the local sloughs in late fall or early spring. But my big problem was a poor hand me down pair of skates. Now we all enjoy a fair share of modern conveniences that should make us all happy, but the time for all this is so hard to find. We're moving forward into an unknown future at such an accelerated rate of speed, that its hard to find time even for these reflections of our past.

Now with regards to pictures; they were few and far between. And the ones that we have are very important to all of us.

The years I spent at Rotnum school, I knew it would be too long a tale to include all the memories of the ten years spent there. I shall however relate some of the good and bad events that seems to stand out in my memory of those school years. I started attending Rotnum school in the fall of 1931, I also remember how the older boys at school would get us younger boys to box against each other at

## Ingrid (Linde) Nelson

Ingrid was the eldest child of Nels and Kristina Nelson coming with her parents, brother and sister to Canada from Tarnaby, Vesterbatten, Sweden whereshe had already entered school.

In 1929 the family settled on Sec 2 - 36- 13, now farmed by brother Verner.

In 1940 she married a local chap, Chris Hagen, who had come from Norway. They settled on SW¼ - 1 - 36 - 13 (presently owned by Frank Gutek) and later moved to Hendon where they operated a cafe.

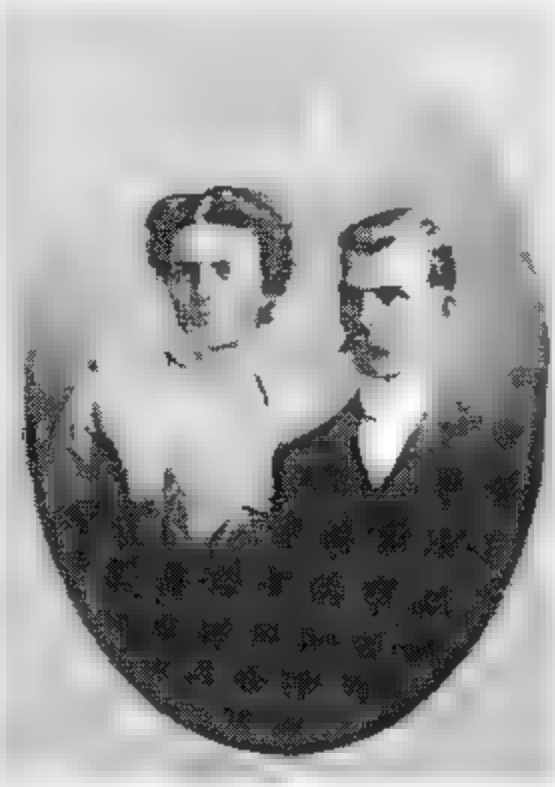
Two children were born, a daughter Ellen and a son Maurice.

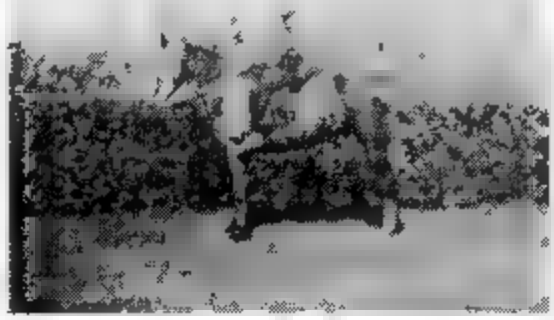
Chris passed away as the result of an accident while working for the Pool construction.

Ellen became a registered nurse and married Linus Westberg of Yorkton, who works with C.K.O.S. television station. They have three children. Maurice is married, has two daughters and works as contract foreman in N.W.T.

Ingrid is presently Mrs. Archie Linde and they make their home on the farm between Hendon and Wadena.

She is an avid plant lover and their yard in summer with the flowers in bloom, is a real pretty spot.





Left; Mr.and Mrs. Bob Gowan

Above; Stuart Donald on his pony "Dick".

recess time. A circle was scratched in the dusty ground behind the school and two of us at a time would step inside the circle and bare fisted slug it out. The one being first forced outside the circle was the looser. I invariably ended up with a bloody nose before recess was over.

Some years later I was on the Rotnum ball team and I'm certain each of us on the team felt a certain amount of pride and satisfaction for each game won against teams from neighboring schools. The games were usually played on Fridays after last recess. To me this was a welcome break in school routine, either going away to play other country schools or getting ready for their expected arrival at our school. Also in the early thirties the R.M.'s paid a bounty of one cent per gopher tail, later it was dropped to ½ a cent per tail. So that catching gophers either by snaring or drowning, in or adjacent to the school grounds became part of our school activities, (especially for us boys), during recess and noon lunch hour.

Snow ball and our style of fast ball (more like European soccer) was our main sports activity during the winter months. This also sometimes resulted in bloody noses and the occasional fights.

Christmas and the school Christmas Concert was also something we practised hard for, and looked forward to. The night of the concert was real exciting because then my parents and most everyone in the surrounding area would be there, they would listen to our singing, dialogues and recitations. Sometimes the unexpected would also happen such as the time when Mr. Davies was program chairman and backed his chair off the stage and fell into the audiance below stage, much to our merriment. Luckily he wasn't hurt or hurt anyone else either.

The first year I attended school at Rotnum I walked to school, a distance of about three miles. In the winters when the weather was real cold or stormy, I stayed home unless dad had time to take me to school. As a result, I missed a lot of school. But later when dad thought I was big enough, he bought me a school pony. He must have got this pony from a circus; because that pony made a clown out of me. I never did see Matt (the pony) afraid when prairie chickens flew up in front of him while grazing in the pasture, but let a small chickadee fly up from the roadside ditch when I rode him, and that horse would jump straight sideways; thereby parting company with me. Then Matt would turn quickly about and head back home on a dead gallop. I never did have a saddle for Matt but I did see him pull the same stunt on an experienced rider. I finally solved that problem by getting a second hand bike or was it third hand? Any way it did have two wheels and handle bars. Twelve dollars I paid for that bike, so there went my gopher tail money, and the money realised from a half dozen weasel skins from the previous winter. That fall I got Dad to make me a pair of skis and from then on that became my winter mode of travel to and from school.

Trapping weasels during the early winter months on my way to school became a way of making some extra cash for myself. My neighboring school chum also started to do a bit of weasel trapping while skiing to and from school. Early that spring he discovered a real live skunk den. Prime skunk pelts at that time could bring anywhere from $1.00 to $2.50 each. But, also after we had trapped our second

skunk and arrived at school that morning, we were told by our teacher to leave skunks alone during the school week.

I never did receive a strapping during all the years I attended school at Rotnum. I did however, stay in after school for almost a whole month, after taking part in a toilet tipping exercise with our teacher in it. It was taboo for a teacher to smoke during school hours. So this teacher used the boys toilet to have his smoke. It was on one such occasion that us older boys decided to tip the toilet with the teacher inside it. We never attempted that stunt again nor did he use the toilet for a smoker. There are many other incidents I could relate, but all in all I owe a sincere thank you to all my teachers who worked so hard for our education. There was times when one teacher had over 35 students from grade 1 to 9 or 10, and I must say the teachers did an admirable job. I must also mention Miss Margaret Davis who taught Sunday School for a while at Rotnum.

## The Jacob Ostlie Family

Jacob Ostlie was born in 1873 at Clermont, Iowa and Caroline Knudson was born at Redwing, Minnesota in 1872. They were married in 1894 and had eleven children. The family immigrated to Canada in the spring of 1920 from Northwood, North Dakota, settling first at Theodore, Saskatchewan where five brothers attended school. They later moved to Springside, Saskatchewan where four brothers attended the Beaverdale School.

A Harvest Scene on the Ostlie farm in 1928

The next move was to Hendon in 1926, where a farm was purchased on the E ½ of Section 21, Twp. 36, R. 13 W 2 M. While clearing land the family resided on the Curry place. During this time Martin attended the Victoria Park school until a move was made to the Holstein home and he then went to the Rotnum school. In 1929 they moved to their farm where they built a home. Glen started school then, attending the Rotnum School along with Martin.

The teacher in 1928 was Charles Spencer who was followed by Miss Campbell. After her term was completed Mr. Spencer returned to Rotnum. Then Miss Bryant taught followed by Miss Evelyn Dahlehaug, Mr. Earl Leach and Miss Mabel Linstrom.

Gradually the family left home for other parts of the country.

Caroline passed away in 1948 and Jacob in 1954. Oliver passed away at Hendon in 1927. Myrtle was killed by a hit and run driver while vacationing in California in 1971. Edith married Fred Burns of Springside, Saskatchewan and is now a widow living in Seattle, Washington. They have one son, Robert. Cora, who married Charles Walker of Peterborough, Ontario is also a widow and lives in Canoga Park, California. Annard married Grace MacAvoy of Seattle and they have two children, Charles and Catherine. Russell married Emma Hyldahl of Seattle and have one son, Russell Junior. Martin married Sylvia Hanson of Duluth, Minnesota. Martin is now a widower and lives in Seattle. The twins, Kenneth and Joseph passed away in 1962 and 1975 respectively. Glen married Florence Backlund. They have two children, Gerald and Gwen. Glen and Florence live on the home place at Hendon.

The Glen Ostlie

Glen Ostlie (Norwegian), Florence Backlund (Swedish) from Harrow school district west of Hendon. Glen's teachers while attending Rotnum school were Miss. Dalshaug, Miss Bryant, Charles Spencer, Mabel Lindstrom, Don Leitch. Classmates were Sam Tweidt, Hans Peterson, Stanley Larson, Ethel Schau, Martha Nelson, Sammie Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ostlie live on their farm E½ 23, 36, 13. Besides farming, Glenn has worked at the Wadena Auction Market and also with the Bridge Crew (Department of Highways) during winter months. Florence was a member of the staff lunch counter for eleven years at the Wadena Auction Market.

Gerald is married to Caroline Shewchuk from MacNutt, Saskatchewan. They reside at Leross where Gerald is Supervisor of Highways. Caroline is the Lab Technologist at St. Joseph's Hospital at Lestock.

Gerald attended public school at Rotnum. Teachers were Mrs. Frank Gutek and Don Leitch. Classmates were Donna Tweidt and Darold Leepart. He graduated from Wadena Composite High School, then worked with the Department of Highways at Wadena and Kuroki. The office is at Elfros where he worked prior to moving to Leross.

Gerald, being musically inclined has played with various bands and for the past thirteen years as lead guitarist with the "Garnet" orchestra.

Gwendolyn Ostlie

Gwendolyn attended Rotnum School, Wadena High School and graduated in 1967. She worked as a bookkeeper at the Wadena Co-op for 2½ years. She married Don Stroshein from Wadena in 1969.

They lived in Calgary for one year where she took training as a Hospital Assistant. Don started work with Saskatchewan Pool in 1971. They lived in Jedburgh where she worked at the hospital in Theodore. In 1974 they moved to Marshall, Saskatchewan and she worked at Roblin, Manitoba.

In 1976 our son, Doron was born. In 1978 we moved to Saltcoats where we now reside.

## Dorothy Otter

Dorothy Otter was the eldest daughter of Willie and Christine Otter. She attended Rotnum School for a short while in 1928 while living with Grandma and Grandpa Otter on the farm now owned by Ron Gutek.

## Mr. & Mrs. Wm Otter

Mr. & Mrs. Otter were both born and raised in England and they had operated a hotel then, prior to coming to Canada. Because of Mr. Otter's illness, the doctor thought the climate would be better for his health than the dampness of the English climate. Mr. Otter had a family of five children by his first marriage, Florrie, Rose, Mae, Violet (Mrs. Joe Brice) Willie. He later married Annie Richards and she with her husband and his family came to Canada and the Wallace district in the Yorkton area in 1903. They later moved to the Meadow Bank district where they farmed the NW ¼ 20-36-12. Upon retirement, they moved to Kelvington where they lived until Mrs. Otter passed away in 1929. Mr. Otter then went to live with his daughter, Mrs. Joe Brice until his passing.

Mr. & Mrs. Wm Otter, Sam, Albert and Mrs. Lancaley

## The Parish Family

Richard and Amy Parish came to Canada in 1911 and arrived in Regina. They spent the early part of their years in the Leask Yorkton districts working for various farmers. To this union there were four children, Richard & Thomas who were born in England and Albert (Bert) and Phyllis who were born in Saskatchewan.

In 1921 the Parish's moved to the family homestead in the Lintlaw area. In the early days Mr. Parish and his eldest son, Richard used to come to the Kelvington area to thresh. On many occasions they threshed with the Robert Gowans. Wages were very poor and the work was hard. Mrs. Parish used to stay on the homestead with the rest of the family where there was cattle and other chores to do.

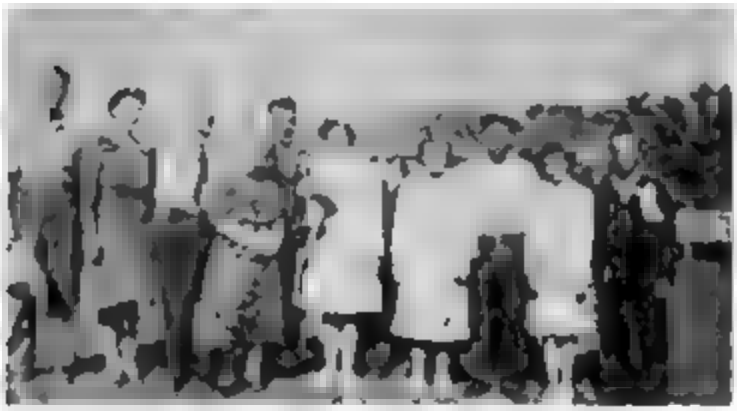
In 1928 the family moved from Lintlaw to the Duck Creek district and lived on the former Jack Gowan place. The two youngest children,

Bert and Phyllis attended Duck Creek School.

Phyllis (Parish) Little remembers quite well when she went to Duck Creek school and Olive Ekman, a school chum invited her to come to her house and stay over night. When they got to the Ekman home, Olive's parents where not home, and Olive and I decided to bake a cake. We selected our favorite recipe - a coffee cake. We followed the recipe very well, until it called for one cup of coffee. We used one cup of ground coffee. How delighted we were to have followed the recipe so well. But we were digusted to see the cake, it was just like cement. What pleasant memories.

They lived in the Duck Creek district for thirteen years, and then made a final move in 1941 to the quarter that their third son, Bert now operates. Mrs. Parish raised extra money, selling eggs, chickens and cream. A record that has been kept by her daughter, Phyllis, registered four dozen eggs were sold for .50¢, two chickens for $1.32 and a turkey sold for $2.40. In 1942 they sold 50 bushels of wheat for $19.00 and five gallons brought $5.32. A gallon of coal was .30¢

Mr. Parish passed away in 1951 at the age of 71 years. Shortly after the death of her husband, Mrs. Parish moved her house into the yard of her daughter, Phyllis Little. She spent 16 years there until her death in July 1967.



Left to Right - Dick and Lorraine, Mr. and Mrs. Parish, Tom & Evelyn, Mr. & Mrs. Erickson, Bert and Doris, Bill Clarkson

Richard Parish Junior is retired and he and his wife reside in Tuffnell, Saskatchewan. They have two children, George of Estevan and Sandra (Mrs. Sandra Andronowich) of Wadena.

Tom Parish and his wife, Evelyn (Erickson) reside on a farm northeast of Wadena. Three girls were born to this union, Linda (Mrs. Doug Schnieder) of Martinsville, Darlene (Mrs. Pat Santo) of Prince Albert and Lila at home.

(Albert (Bert) Parish and his wife, Doris (Erickson) live in Kendon. They have one son, Albert who farms the former Lytle farm.

Phyllis Parish (Little) and her husband, Jim are retired on

their farm in the Wolverton district. They have two sons and two daughters,Don of Regina, Bob of Wadena who operates his parents' farm, Sharon of Regina and Shirley of Humboldt. They now have six grandchildren.

Submitted by Carlene Sevilla Peters

Father Carl Phillip Peters (now deceased), mother Svea Margareta Peters born 1936 in Regina, Saskatchewan at the Grey Nuns Hospital. I lived with my parents on the farm until I was nearly 8 years of age, then started grade 2 after spending 1st year in Rotnum. I remember living close to Willie Mack's place! I can recall going to school all wrapped up in a tobaggan with our old horse, Minnie, faithfully plodding her way to school without me even guiding her. To this day I don't understand how that horse did it on her own! I remember going to school with Louise and Sigfreid Mack, in a two-wheeled cart. I also remember that they had good sandwiches made from goose liver and sausage. In fact I can still taste it. Mrs. Mack was marvelous, especially her bread and the things she made for me to eat. However, I remember an incident very vividly when my brother (age about and apx.I, 3) were staying with the Macks for a few days. I thought we had had enough time there and decided that we would walk home, that I knew the way home. So I took the only important possession we had with us, the pee pot, and started on our way home. When Mrs. Mack found us not far from the house, and took us back to the house, I sure didn't like it.

I remember vividly getting up one moonlit night, and going in a tobaggan to the Wallmans'. I thought that was the greatest adventure I ever had. The earliest recollection I had was when we lived in a cabin on the Peters' place (before dad bought the big house) and a terrible rainstorm came up. Lightning flashed and dad and I were watching this flash and he seemed very concerned as he said, "I think it hit the Bull". Sure enough it had.

My growing up history includes grade 3 at Foam Lake, grade 4 at Wilcox, 5 at Lang, grade 6, 7, and 8 at Foam Lake. Grade 9, 10 and 11 at Luther College in Regina, then on to Calgary to become a certified Nurse Aide, then to Los Angeles where I have been ever since. I eventually went back to school and became an R.N. working continuously , At Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles and also obtained a Bachelors Degree in Nursing at one of our most elite colleges Mr. St. Mary's College. That was in 1975 and I was appointed Nursing Supervisor, evening Administrator of our hospital and enjoy the challenges of the positon. I will be retiring from this position after 15 years service, at the ripe old age of 45 with plans to go into my own business in Colorado Springs, Colorado by 1981.

The Carl Peters Story as written by Carl Peters Junior

Carl Phillip Peters was born in Holmes County, Ohio, U.S.A. October 30th, 1880. He was the 2nd youngest in a family of six children. Carl was only 10 years old when he lost his father suddenly from heart disease. All the family had to pull together and work on their small Ohio farm. Schooling was often secondary in importance as food and clothing were not easy to come by in those early years. Thus, the older ones often took small jobs and brought

money home to be used for necessities. When Carl was 13 years old, his mother and other members of the family decided to make a new farm home in Oklahoma. Their dreams of establishing a new life were shattered when they soon discovered the land they had purchased was dried out and useless for crops or garden. Their investment had to be abandoned and they returned to Ohio again.

Canada and the United States were in an era of discovery and expansion. Carl and one of his older brothers headed west in search of work and a new life. They ended up in Canada, employed by the Canadian Bridge Company at Edmonton. His duties ranged from Cook's helper to rivet carrier and during the following 5 years of employment he helped to build the steel bridge across the North Saskatchewan River at Edmonton and another big bridge at Prince George, British Columbia. Carl was saving his money and planning for the day when he would have a farm of his own.

Carl had heard of homesteads in Saskatchewan becoming available and decided to move to a place called Wadena. A land representative told him that land was fertile for cropping and selling at reasonable prices. One cool spring day in 1918, Carl stood on the Wadena railway platform with all his belongings and he could hardly wait to see and work the land he purchased from a homesteader by the name of Reed. Some hours later and sixteen winding miles further north, he got to a clearing on a knoll. There was a small sod covered shack and a poorly constructed barn ther. The roof leaked when the rain poured and was cold during the coldest part of the winter, but it was his and that was the important thing.

From here on it was toil from early morning to dusk; summer heat and mosquitoes and the bitter cold of January were difficult to bear, but somehow, he felt deep down inside that this good earth with all it's drawbacks, would be fruitful and rewarding if he persisted and had faith in what he was doing. And so it was - the will to work very hard, a good team of horses, some simple implements was all that was needed in those early years. A wagon in the summer and a sleigh for winter and later on, a pony to cover the miles for a quick visit. (The pony was called Teddy). As the times improved a buggy for summer and a cutter for winter, with a set of brass bells to add a touch of joy in the frosty air.

Perhaps the most common luxury of the those days was the battery radio and who can every forget the exciting boxing matches with the "Brown Bomber" - Joe Louis always coming out of the ring victorious. Then ther is Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy along with Amos N-Andy for laughs galore. No one will ever forget the "Happy Gang". I would say the Eatons catalogue, second to the Holy Bible, was the most read book of that era and when the catalogue was old and worn, it still served a very special purpose to all the family members.

Other people settled in the area and the closest neighbors included the Big Swede to the north, Mr. Leonard Naff and his family of pretty girls. The Wallman family of boys, where musical talent and singing added a bright touch to the parties and local dances. The William Harrison family and the Willie Mack family were always willing to lend a helping hand during anyone's time of need and the ladies cooking was hard to beat.

Then there was the Jay Garrison and family, good stock from

Missouri, U.S.A. who kept his southern drawl all through his life. His buggy and sorrel mare were never to be parted and remained to be a mode of reliable transportation for Jay, till both buggy and horse became too old and worn out. Carl mentioned many times about Mrs. Weeklund's fresh bread that tasted excellent. Other neighbors also added to the community and its affairs.

Threshing time was a prime example of neighborly cooperation and participation. The old belt driven separator was often kept humming till late at night. Field pitcher's arms ached and the teams often balked for another load of bundles when the days were stretched out.

The barber is Carl and the victim is John Weeklund.

The Sunday afternoon haircut performance. Carl claims it was a fair cut, rather uneven and would consider it 1/2 crop grown on a Swede - John Weeklund.

Every straw and grain kernel was handled by muscle, three times before the straw pile and at least four times after the straw pile. It is little wonder, then why the shoulders and backs of our forefathers were well rounded and their hands stiffened from long periods of over use. Today, who would think of hauling grain in a 100 bushel sleigh box, 16 miles to Wadena with 2 teams all frosted up on a cold winters day. Carl was gone by 6 a.m. with a load, headed for Wadena, unloaded by noon and after some groceries and supplies obtained, headed back home again. It was late that night when finally the team were unharnessed and all the chores done.

The railway was soon to come to Hendon in 1923 and some farmers even got trucks later on. It certainly was a lot closer to deliver the grain and market livestock and get your groceries and farm supplies.

THE COYOTE CHASE - Carl loved riding horse back and one of his most exciting winter sports was chasing coyotes. On one such ocassion, Carl had started a coyote and was closing in on the tired animal. The weapon he used was a ten- foot stick. When he was about to jump the fence the stick caught and the end hit him in the face, tearing a hole in his cheek. He realized the gash in his face was in need of immediate attention and the coyote was forgotten. He held his arm over his cheek and headed for the nearest neighbor, Mr. Jay Garrison, and with his help went over to Mr. William Harrisons' . When he got to the house, he persuaded Mr. Harrison to try and stitch up the hole in his cheek.

This incident however, did not deter Carl from chasing coyotes, this time, with the use of a .22 calibre rifle instead of a long stick. The purchase of long legged wolf hounds made the pursuit of coyotes more fashionable in later years.

It wasn't long before Carl had a small herd of cattle as he got great satisfaction working with animals. The spruce lumber for a round roofed barn 36 x 100 with a lean to of 14 feet was logged at Stromberg's mill at Greenwater. The carpenter contracted at$325.00 t8 build this barn. All the cement was mixed by hand using a garden hoe. Many barn dances were enjoyed in the big loft and one of the orchestras included the "Dynamite Five". Local musical talent was also used for dances. The house was moved in from another district and was formerly the Good Temperance Hall, situated on the N.W.¼ 28- 35- I3. After remodeling there was room for ½ dozen hired men upstairs and a crew of I2 to I8 men could easily sit at the long kitchen table. This grand house hosted many house parties and good times with plenty of dancing room for all who came.

Nearly fifteen years went by since Carl moved to the farm and built up his enterprise. A bachelor's life is sometimes lonely and one day Carl thought to himself, "Life must have more to it than working and living alone? Soon he found himself romantically involved and in love with Margret Dunn, who had two children, Melvin and Monty, by a previous marriage. They were married in I936 and together that made the farm life pleasant and brought into this world a daughter Carlene Sevilla and a son Carl Philip Jr.

Carl was making a success of his mixed farming enterprise in the Rotnum district, but felt he needed more pasture for his expanding herd of cattle. He found such a place near Margo where hudreds of acres of virgin prairie grass lay between several small lakes. He decided this would be the ideal place for his livestock and sold his Hendon farm in 1949 to settle in the Margo district, where he ranched for 15 years until retirement, at the age of 73.

Carl Phillip Peters died on February 16, 1976 at the age of 86 and was laid to rest in a family plot cemetary, Winesburg, Ohio. Those who knew him will remember him for his enthusiastic attitude towards his labours and friendliness to neighbors.

The Good Lord will surely Bless our pioneers for their part in making this a better country for future generations.

School Days at Rotnum - I remember Rotnum School as my biggest educational institution in the 40's and the school house was the scene of many grand affairs. Christmas concerts, complete with a local Santa Claus; Hallowe'en dances and other festive events, as the community found it necessary. I felt myself lucky to have a toboggan in the winter. Sam Wallman built it and I could sit down and it had sides and storage compartment in the front for lunch, etc. At a very early age I received a black shetland mare as a birthday present which Bill Prouse and Russel Keller (our hired men) broke to ride. I recall that in many instances this little pony trotted home ahead of me as she was prone to bolting sideways and leaving

me on the ground. This same little shetland originally came from the Jesse Mahlum farm and remained my trail partner until I was too old and big to ride her. She proved to be exceptional in speed and endurance and was top runner at the Annual Foam Lake Fair for a good number of years.

Many other kids came to Rotnum school like I did and still others had bikes, pony carts or walked in the summer. An exciting incident took place one winter, when the Willie Mack family, Sigfred, Louise and Bernice, came to school in a caboose. It seems that some boys had been smoking in the caboose during recess and after recess a fire had started somehow. Leo Mahlum had left the school room for an undisclosed place and came back yelling at the top of his voice "FIRE - FIRE". Everyone ran out of the school and it took all the water in the school and snow from all directions to douce the flaming structure. A charred frame structure on runners, pulled by a suspicious pony, was all that the Macks had to go home that day.

Let's not forget the school picnics and field days of yesteryear. One doesn't see home made lemonade (from real lemons) and hand made ice cream any more.

Class studies under the carraganna bushes, nature hikes and the soft ball games in the school yard shall not be forgotten. Do they still drown gophers in the spring like we used to. Even the girls could join in this exciting event - - the equipment was two or more kids, clubs and pails for hauling water and of course, unfortunate gophers.

One teacher stands out in my memory, "Miss Lovdahl". I was in about grade two or three at that time. I thought her being very pretty and so did some other eligible gentlemen who were a lot older than I. My classmates were of German, Norwegian, Swedish, Irish, Scotch and other nationalities, but we all got along very well. Every one envied Keith Harrison with his high stepping saddle horse.

Reflection of the Past - The younger generation find it hard to comprehend or even realize the sacrifices and hardships endured by another generation almost all of whom, are buried now. The long days and weeks of brow sweating toil just to grow a few acres of grain. Would anyone think of stooking wheat today? Could we be brave enough to clear land by hand today? The women of those days had burdens that are not carried today. The garden, farm chores, cooking and washing plus a major role in raising family which was all done without conveniences. Let us not forget and let us appreciate the sacrifices and hardships endured by our grandparents and parents during those harsh years. They were true pioneers and we are now enjoying the fruits of their labours.

Melvin Everett Dunn and Monte Blue Dunn attended Rotnum School. They are the sons of Mrs. Carl Peters.

Melvin has retired from the U.S. Air Force. His title is Lt. Col. of Strategic Air Command and he lives in Carrolton, Texas. Monte has a flyin service and training school for future pilots at Wadena, Minnesota, U.S.A. where he now resides.

Submitted by Mrs. Elisabeth Petersen

Quite a few years have gone by when we came over to this promised land where it was supposed to be "milk and honey" flowing at all times. I have to admit it was healthy air, with no high chimneys or factories polluting the air. The soil, what a pleasure to let it ripple through your fingers and knowing what could be growing in the soil.

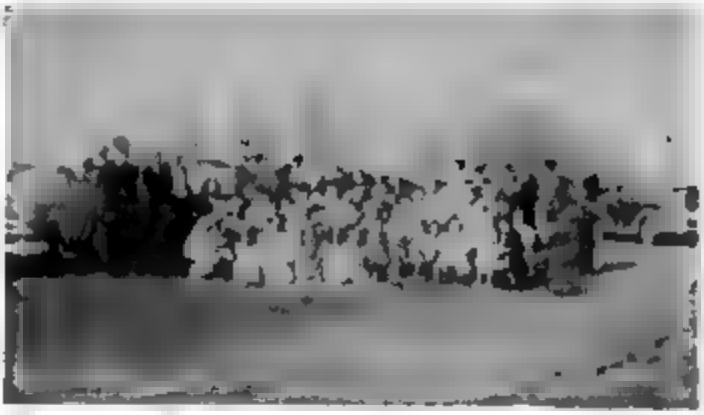
We were working at Carl Peters at that time. Father had gone over to this promised land a few months earlier. I followed with my five adopted children and one of our own just a few months later in the fall.

So the first year I planted a large garden, as I always did in the old country. My tomatoes all pruned and full of fruit. Nobody had ever seen anything like this. Everything grew like wild in that soil, then one evening Carl Peters came home from the bush camp and told me it would freeze that night or towards morning. So I gathered all the blankets that were available, etc. to cover everything. No doubt in my mind that the frost could not get thru that; what a disappointment that in spite of all my effort, everything was black. Can you imagine how many tears I shed that morning? After all, I had a large family to feed.

No stores for miles around and neither money to buy anything, but as the saying goes, "a poor person ,that doesn't know how to help herself". At least I found an old coffee grinder so I could grind enough wheat for a loaf of bread. For the necessary meat there were plenty of wild rabbits. It wasn't all "peaches and cream", but a good old cornstarch pudding still tastes good to me, a good pie-crust I haven't been able to make to this day.

Margaret, Hans and Andrew all attended Rotnum school. Later on we bought a ¼ section of land along the railroad track, used an old granary as our bedroom in which we had built bunkbeds, two on top of each other. During the summer we built a six-room house. There we lived until we retired into Saskatoon.

I still live here and look after my half acre of garden and enjoy every minute of it.



Meadow Bank Mother's Day Tea

Back row; Lloyd Nelson teacher, Judy Tweidt, Bradley Scramstad, Calvin Tweidt, Lowell Tweidt. Center row; Larry Tweidt, Darrell Tweidt, Debbie Scramstad, Kathy Tweidt, Cheryl Tweidt, Front row; Malcolm Tweidt, Caroline Tweidt, Ricky Tweidt, missing is Beverly Leitch.

Meadow Bank Kitchen

Skating on Meadow Bank

Meadow Bank Ladies Aid

## Mr. and Mrs. Metro Prybylski

Metro immigrated from the Ukraine to Canada with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Prybylski in the year 1897, at the age of ten years. They homesteaded in the Beaver Dale district of Sask. He was one of the first settlers there. While still quite a young lad, Mr. Prybylski worked in the fields along with his father, driving oxen.

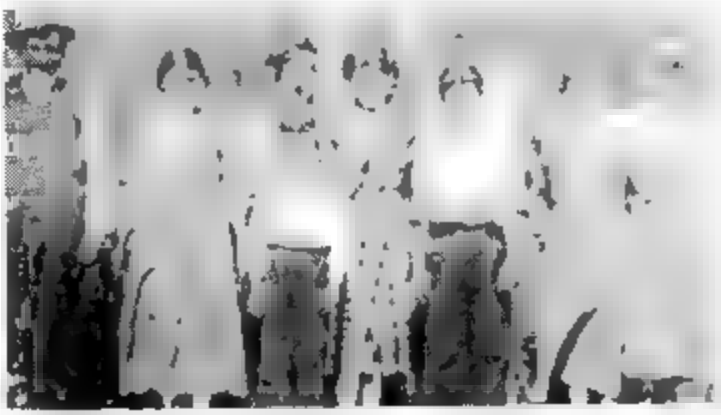
In 1910 Metro met Annie Danesowich, who had come to Canada from the Ukraine with some freinds, working for different people in the area. That fall they were married. Mr. Prybylski bought land in the Jedburgh district, built a log house and other building and took his bride to this home.

They were blessed with seven children, all born on the farm with father and a midwife in attendance.

Mr. Prybyliski served as a trustee of the local school in this area for a number of years. In 1928 he sold the homestead and taking his family, moved to the Yorkton area. This was about the beginning of the dry years and the crop failures which forced another move in 1932.

That year he came to the Meadow Bank- Duck Creek ditrict and purchased the J.C.Miller farm. In spite of the hard times we always had lots to eat and lots to wear. Mother always saw that we that we had a big garden and cows to milk .

Five of the children attended Duck Creek School, Mary, Stella Steve, Peter and Dennis. We all enjoyed going to the dances at the Meadow Bank Hall with the Dynamite Five supplying the music. There were also ball games, picnics and other activities as well. Cristmas Concerts were held and Meadow Bank Hall was always filled to capacity, making it hard for Santa to get in with his bag of goodies.



Left;

The Prybylski Family

taken in 1938.

Annie; Mrs. Everett Thorell of Calgary, she passed away in 1964. Her daughter, Beverly, lives in Florida.

Fred and his wife Anne live in Kelvington. They have three girls, Marcella Schhults, Francis Ekstrom and Darlene Gillings.

Mary, Mrs. Adrian Norberg, they live on the farm south of Wolverton The Norbergs have three children, Karen Brayshaw of Chiliwak, B.C. Chloe Linde of Calgary and son Peter, who with his wife Gail and three sons live in the same yard and do the farming.

Stella is Mrs. Mike Bohychuk and they live in Wadena. Their two

daughters are Barbara Zalah and Theresa Matheson of Regina.

Steve and his wife Shirley, with their two sons Gerald and Thomas live in Saskatoon.

Peter was the quiet, un married, muscial one of the Prybylski family, who worked in the mines in Eastern Canada. He passed away in Vancouver in I970.

Dennis, the youngest, his wife Muriel and two children live in Calgary, were he works for city transit.

In I960, Mr. Prybylski sold his farm to John Minken and moved to Wadena where they retired. They took a very active part in the work of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. Metro passed away in March of I976 and his dear wife followed him three weeks later, in April of that same year.

Respectfully submitted by Mrs. Mary Norberg.

Submitted by Steve Prybylski.

I attended Duck Creek School in the years I932 to I938.

I had a number of teachers during those years namely; Mona McKay, Eva Harrison, Martin Bordson and Amy Eskelson.

After leaving school, I farmed with my parents until July I943. At which time I enlisted in the Armed Forces during World War II. And served in Canada and the United Kingdom with the R.C.A.F. until my discharge in May I946.

After my discharge I continued to farm with my parents till I953 when I retired from farming

Mr. and Mrs Oscar Rotnam

Oscar Rotnem homestead the S.E.¼ -I8-36-I2. His brothe Rudolph homesteaded the S.W.¼ -I8-36-I2. Rotnum School was later bulit in the S.W.corner of this quarter, on a piece of land donated by Mr. Rotnem.

Rudolph passed away in the great flu epidemic of I9I9.

Oscar was married to Miss Pohlman and they had three children, Hagar, Clifford and Roy.

Father and sons farmed five quarters of land. In I920, Oscar and family went to the United States and the Kidd Brothers rented the land until I924 when Oscar returned to farm.

The Rotnem family lived here until I936, when they sold the farm and moved to Kenora, Ontario.

## Sanford.

Submitted by Mildred Meachem (Sanford)

I was born in Wadena, Sask. in I9I5. My mother passed away in I92I, we lived on the farm with my father until he passed away in I929. I went to Willow Glen School and moved to Meadow Bank were I stayed with Mrs. Lancely and had a short time going to Duck Creek school. Then I moved to Aylsham Sask. and stayed with my Uncle and Aunt and attended the Dartmore school where I finished my school years. When I was old enough to go out working, I went out to work. I met my fiance and was married Oct.4th, I939.

We lived on the farm in the Carrot River district, we had a son Melvin and a daughter Shirley. They are both married now. We have five grandchildren. My husband and I stayed on the farm until I972 and went out to work for the Pioneer Grain Construction. My husband did carpenter work and I cooked for the men for seven years. We moved to Nipawin Sask. in I976 and plan to retire here.

## Mr. and Mrs. Otto Schau.

Submitted by Ethel Partridge (Schau)
and Elsie Morton (Schau)

Mr. Schau was born in Nebraska, U.S.A. of German and Danish parents and came to Sask. at the age of two. Mother was born in Springside, Sask. Her parents were English.

Dad and Mother were farmers all their lives. They farmed at Theodore and Yorkton, before moving to the Duck Creek district in about I930.

Ethel and Esther attended Duck Creek School for approximetely one year. As it was quite a distance to go, we were given a horse to ride, but we didn't make it on time as the horse would stop and eat grass and we couldn't make it go. I don't remember the teachers but we went to school with the Donalds, Harry Linden, Evelyn Sunde, Margaret Cornish and Joyce McInnes.

Dad moved to the Rotnum district and bought the same land as the school was situated on. He was making sure we lived close to school this time. The first teacher we had at school was a Miss. Bryant. Other students at the time were the Hansons, Tweidts, Scramstads, Ostlies, Garrisons and Evans family.

Mother tells a tale of Mac Scramstad. He asked if he could use the pump handle for a baseball bat. He was told yes, but he sawed off the handle to get it. That called for a meeting of school board members, ( of which his dad was a member ). He followed later and listened under the window. I don't know the veridct.

## Emily Sophia (Schau) Johnsey

Emily Sophia Johnsey, was born April 6, 1980 one of four children of Alfred and Ester Johnsey of Springside, Saskatchewan. It was here that she spent her childhood and youth, and here that she married. She was united in marriage with Otto George Schau on October 20, 1920. They farmed there and in other locations before settling on a farm East of Hendon in 1930. It was here they shared the work and pleasure of life until they moved into Wadena in 1956. Like all who adopt the farm life Emily worked hard through it all. She never lost her sense of humor nor her sharp interest in life and those she shared it with.

During the last years, since moving to Wadena, she has been an avid participator in the fun and fellowship of the Drop-In Center, as well as an enthusiastic sports fan. Emily and Otto were awarded a plaque in 1978 as the "Fans of the Year" by the Wadena hockey team.

Emily and Otto also raised a strong and active family. Emily is survived by her husband Otto and all but one of their thirteen children. These include five sons, Norman of Tisdale, Saskatchewan Walter of Strathmore, Alberta, George of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Lloyd of Entwhistle, Alberta, and Ray of Churchbridge, Manitoba, and seven daughters, Ethel, Mrs. George Partridge, of Vancouver, B.C., Ester, Mrs. C. Kretsch, of Elbow, Saskatchewan, Elsie, Mrs. Morton of Weyburn, Saskatchewan, Irene, Mrs. A. Bushell, of Regina, Helen, Mrs. D. Williams, of Allan, Sask, Diane, Mrs. R. Moffat, of Arcola, Sask., and Arlene, Mrs. William Fleck of Campbell River, B.C. She is also survived by one brother, Albert, of Springside. She was predeceased by one daughter, Beatrice and two sisters, Alice and Rosey.

## Christina Schmidt

Christina Schmidt came to the Duck Creek area in 1903. She was born in Yorkton, Saskatchewan October 9, 1894 of German parentage. Her father, Henry Schmidt had been coachman to the well-to-do Schock family in Germany and fell in love with the diminutive daughter, Rosina. The young couple eloped to Canada and after some years in the Yorkton area moved to Duck Creek where their home soon became a rest stop between Wadena and other settlements. Barely five feet tall, black-haired, brown-eyed Rosina was an excellent cook and with her tall, kindly husband made friend and stranger welcome at the Schmidt home. Their three children were Caroline, John and Christina.

Christina's school years were few as herdlaw came in and it was her chore to herd the cattle on the summer range. This was at the Duck Creek School. Any incidents we recalled were not particularily happy ones; when one is tiny, tow-headed to the point of being white and can speak only German, there is much to be teased about.

The Schmidt home had a 20-foot long table which remained that length all the time to accommodate the many travellers and guests who stopped there. As the years passed it was not surprising that many of the lonely young bachelor-homesteaders turned up there for one of those fabulous home-cooked meals - and of course there were those two pretty marriageable daughters. There was a bit of humorous horse-play each time Jim Lindsay and Johnny MacLean were there. Each were very fond of the outside crusts of bread, as were others also, so there was great rivalry for them, whoever reached his chair first being the most likely to have an end crust for supper. Jim developed the trick of reaching over for the crust as he filed by to his place and would put it in his back pocket. Johnny, not to be outdone, would go behind Jim and pick it out of his pocket as he went by.

Christina married John "Jock" Parker when 16; a boy, Wilbert Henry Barker, "Bud" as he became known, was born to them. Barker was killed in an accident and the young widow and baby returned to the parental home for a while; eventually marrying Jim Lindsay. The children of this marriage were James Henry Malarbe Lindsay ("Prince"), Herselena Frances, Christina Elsie, (Teeney) Ida Louise, John Schmidt Lindsay, Robert Kenneth, Joseph Kay, Marion Rosina and Douglas Charles, nine in all. Midwives used to deliver most babies in those days. Mrs. Teeney in Wadena was one who helped many including my mother. Marion Rosina was born at our Duck Creek home. Mrs. Bob Cowan helped while Cortes Cowan drove to Kelvington to get Dr. Stewart. John, Robert and Joseph were born in the then new Kelvington hospital. In fact, the "Kay" part of his name was after a fine nurse who worked there, a Miss Kay. Charlie was born in Wadena during a bitterly cold spell in January. Minnie Minky and myself travelled the 25 miles to get him in a caboose, a wooden box-like contraption, with a stove inside, built on sleighs.

There had been a blizzard between the time we went down to get Mom and our return the roads were all drifted in with hard-packed snow, making it very difficult for the team to draw up their feet for the next lunge. Minnie helped the team with rein and voice and I had to get out and hold up the rig every time it tilted at a dangerous angle, scared the stove would tip over and ignite the snow covered floor.

Our father, James Henry Lindsay was born in Toronto, Ontario on March 4, 1884 of a Scottish father (James Donald Lindsay) and a Spanish mother, Ida Louise (Malarbe) Lindsay. He worked in the family hotel, the Bullshead Hotel on Queen St. West in Toronto and Timothy Eatons when sixteen and came west to railroad in 1900 at the age of 17. He homesteaded near Kelvington in 1905.

Mr Mother was a fine horse-woman. Dad always used to say she had a "silken hand"on the rein and "could run like a deer". Uncle John said recently that she used to win all the ladies foot-races at the picnics. This was a talent she passed on to several of her children, Herselena, Teeney, Ida and John and Marion in particlular. Her favourite horse was a tall bay mare with a white face named "Tootsie". She was a Hackney-Hamiltonian cross and so was strong

and fast, on one occasion having to run the 25 miles to Wadena to get the Doctor to the Neil MacLeod home near Kelvington.

Christina Schmidt

The Duck Creek home was the SE quarter of Section 26 and in the spring the creek would flood making it necessary for us to cross by raft to milk the cows if they should happen to be caught on the other sidde. This would happen if the bridge went out during the day. One year Bob Gowan was helping clean grain and the fanning mill was across the creek in a log granary and we must have a half dozen trips across that day with the water rising higher each time. On the last trip, with two pails full of milk from the evening milking, we got caught in the now swiftly moving current. It swept us downstream until we snagged into a heavy group of willows, the force of the current dangerously tipping the raft. Over went the milk of course, but I hung onto the willows and somehow, Bud poled around the clump to where the creek broadened out and we got into shallow water and finally to safety. Bud was 12 or 13, I was 8 or 9 and neither one of us could swim a stroke.

Bud, Teeney and myself went to Duck Creek School in 1924 and '25 and some part of '26 if my memory serves me well. Percy Heffern was our teacher for two years but a blonde woman with glasses took over in the fall our last year there before going to the newly opened Brand School.

Some of our classmates were Van and Percy Gowan, Sam Lancely, Walter Tessemer, Alma and Philip Drummond, our cousins, Irene and Bennie Schmidt, Lena and Alma and their brother (young Alex) Ewald, Ernest, Otto and Edith Koch and the Berg children. These last were Anna, Helma, three girls and Daniel. They spoke no English when the started and had a bit of a hard time. Daniel, not so much as the girls.

We used to run across Jack Lancely's field to school, about 1½ miles or ride around the road by Koch's. Some time we'd go in there and play after school and then get a spank - ing when we got home because the many cows needed gathering and milking.

Sometimes Teeney and I would double on Toots to school and then I'd go alone to get the cows. She was blind in one eye and Dad thought this may have distorted cars to her because she was very frightened of them. There were few in those days but whenever one did come along Toots would rear paw the air in a semi circle and when her feet hit the ground she was running all the way home or until the car turned off. Then we'd retrace our steps, sometimes it was quicker to walk! If we fell off it meant finding a rock or stump or the post of a near-by barbed wire fence. Many a staple was pulled out that way!

Jack Drummond lived only a mile away across the field so after we transferred to Brand School in '29 Alma and Douglas and this writer became fast friends, sharing an interest in horse-back riding and art and foot races in which we often tied for first place.

Wilbert "Bud" Barker was born in 1913, September 16. He was a boxing protege of Jack Hart (Kelvington) and played baseball with the Stubble Jumpers", a ball team in the 1930, 1933 era of the Kelvingside-Rosscommon area, composed of young farmers. They were pretty good too. Bud's close friends included Van Gowan, Andy Wurts and Jim Wallman. Bud died at the age of 20 in 1933 when gangrene set in his thigh after being gored by an Ayrshire bull. He was gored the night before an important match with Barney MacNamee.

As we got older we used to go to the dances at "eadow Bank Hall. Admission was .15¢ for the men, ladies free but bring lunch. Later it was .25¢, lunch included. This was when the "Dynamite Five" provided the toe-tapping music. The group changed over the years and became very popular, touring many of the towns in northern Saskatchewan, but the original group was made up of Cort- and Layton Gowan on the violins, a Mr. Weaver (the leader) on the piano, Horace Newman on the drums and Thurlow Gowan who played guitar and several other instruments. They were very good and we'd dance every dance starting around 8P.". and dance until the small hours of the morning. And it was the small hours, 2, 3, 4 o'clock. One night at a dance at Frank Doyle's we danced until 6 a.m. then drove home with the sun coming up in the frosty day winter day and went to school after milking the cows (the eyes "like two burnt holes in a blanket" as Dad used to say) And those were real dances, the polkas, waltzes, fast two-steps, square dances and schottisches, lots of action.

Teeney developed appendicitis in May 1934 and had to be taken to Wadena Hospital for the operation. It was the end of spring break-up and the roads were bad. Neil MacLeod had a car and kindly took time off from the field work to drive her there but they got stuck in Naff's muskeg. It took four hours to get out and during that time her appendix broke, gangrene set in before

she could be operated and though she was a month in the hospital it iddn't drain properly causing serious health problems. She never did regain the energy and health of formerly and a fine little person and good athlete was lost when she died in Vancouver at the age of 28.

Ida married Wilfred Ewen and went to live in the Nobleville area. "Prince", John, Robert, Joseph, Marion, Charlie and Herselens all went to B.C. to live. Prince went to the School for the Deaf in Winnipeg and Saskatoon. He too excelled in sports, especially soft ball and hockey and was chosen for the young Canada (to Europe ) team in 1932/33, but because he was late in starting school and could only attend for 8 years the school would not give permission for him to go.

Submitted by Dennis Schmidt

My grandfather Henry Schmidt was born in Odessa, Russia in April 1863 of German parents, moved from there to Emerson, North Dakota in 1888.

My grandmother also of German parents and born in Odessa followed soon after to become his bride.

Their next move was to a homestead 20 miles north east (now Ryan) of Yorkton, N.W.T. where my Dad, John was born on December 23, 1892.

On November 4, 1902 Henry Schmidt, his wife and one son, John, two daughters, Carrie and Christie along with the Joseph Walmans and their two sons, Dan Wartz and his father, Jacob came to take up homesteads along Duck Creek.

There was a Hudson Bay post about 14 miles north of Henry Schmidt's homestead on NE ¼ 26 36 and 3 established ranchers in the area, Ab McPherson north west at McPherson lake, Joseph Socold on the Pipestone Creek straight north, and Pete Prowse where Kelvington now stands.

The only source of provisions were Wadena and the Hudson Bay post, so enterprising Pete Prowse decided to do something about it and started to bring in supplies from Sheho to help out the new settlers.

When the train came through Wadena it brought with it land seekers and guides to take the potential homesteaders to their potential plots of land. And as the road went right through the yard of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt to cross the creek, their home consequently became a favorite and popular stopping place. So much that there were times when Grandma had trouble stepping about her chores of making breakfast.

Dad recalls the day a hungry old Indian fellow riding an equally thin and hungry horse came to the door, and being unable to speak either German or English, motioned to his mouth for food. Grandma responded by giving him a loaf of bread

for which he smiled and rode away. But returned a few days later with a large chunk of moose meat.

The original log house (since burned down ) and log barn which still stands today were built of hewn logs by Tom Anderson and Chris Jenson in 1907.

Here is a quote from the Kelvington Radio in the late 40s; "The old original Henry Schmidt place will always hold a firm place in the hearts and memories of everyone who passed through its doors. The kindliness and warmth given to others under its roof is traditional of homesteaders days."

And an extract from a letter of a lady to her sister in Ontario describing her first visit to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidt:

"We were still several miles from home with a tired team and caboose and four tired children, when at 8 O'clock at night we came to Mr. Schmidt's home. I had never met them before. They took us all in at once and gave us the best of everything they had in their home.

They had bought a new organ last fall and were anxious to hear me play it. Of course I did and we all enjoyed some very fine singing in both German and English.

When we went to retire we found we were given Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt's room for ourselves and baby. The baby was dressed in German style in two large feather ticks, no blankets at all as we had always been used to. We never slept better than that night and rose rested and refreshed in the morning.

We felt we had made new friends and hoped to see them again.".

In 1910 Dad took up the SE ¼ 24 36 and set about establishing his own farm.

"ow let's go to Liverpool, England. Date March 21, 1913. The Empress of Ireland is leaving port for St. John Canada. Among the many passengers are Mr. and Mrs. John Hosker with their two daughters, Alice and Millie. They docked in St. John in April, catch the train to Wadena where they were met by son and brother, John who had preceded them by a year. They rented and moved into the Gardy house which was west of Grandads place.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gowan were homesteading NW ¼ 24 36 and were in need of a housekeeper. Word got around to Alice Hosker who accepted the job. Now that was just next door (about a mile) to the Schmidt home on one side and son, John's homestead on the other side. Well, John had to go to work his land and the shortest route was right through Gowans yard. So with one thing and another pretty soon, Alice Hosker was opening the gate for John Schmidt and this looked okay to him. They tied the knot on April 20, 1916, moved into their own house and she has been his housekeeper ever since and they are hail, hearty and HAPPY.

On February 17, 1917 the stork made its first visit to the Schmidt house with Irene, and followed through the next 15 years by me, Dennis on June 19, 1921, Gerald Februay 3, 1926 and Vernon on August 20, 1932.

The year 1937, Dad had put in 44 Saskatchewan winters and mother had endured 20. They agreed that milder climates were calling. So on November 10 we loaded up our 1929 Oldsmobile, tied a small sleeper trailer behind and headed west to the balmy Fraser Valley of British Columbia where Mom, Dad and Irene still live. Gerald lives at Gibsons, B. C., Vernon in Aliceton, Ontario and I in the sunny Okanogan Valley of British Columbia.

My first teacher at school was Miss Mona McKay, a lovely tolerant lady. She was followed by Miss Eva Harrison who was not there long enough for me to pass judgement . I believe she was subbing for Mona when she was sick. Next was Martin Bordsen and finally Miss Amy Eskelson, another lovely lady whom I learned well from.

Children attending during my school years included, Kenneth, Murial, Wilma, and Jean Donald, Teddy and Rosella Avery, Harry Linden, Bert and Phyllis Parish, Thelma Gowan, Dorothy & Lester Weaver, Mary, Stahl , Steve, Peter, Dennis Prybelski, Joyce and Ro nald McGuiness, Jimmy & Audrey Baker, Evelyn Sunde, Tommy Moore, Mary's brother and of course, my sister Irene.

I do have a few school days memories such as - One morning while riding my pony through Parish's yard, I quietly got past their dog, Pal sleeping on the step. I dismounted to open the gate but on closing it again, the wire squeeked, awakening the dog which came madly barking and left four fang holes in my little backside, so I being too bashfull to tell Miss McKay, sat on one cheek all day.

Mr. Bordson had his problems too, with an elastic band wielding students fired grains of wheat and buckshot at his bald pate while he busily wrote on the blackboard. He also found in his chair cushion a melting snowball and thumbtacks not to mention the black sooty drops on his head from melting snowballs in the bracket chimney under which he sat.

My first day of school is one to be remembered as I was put through an initiation by Joyce McGuinness who had a longing for long hair. During both recess periods and all noon hour there were two kids running at full speed around the school yard, me trying to stay ahead and Joyce trying to catch up.

That afternoon on reaching home I begged Mom to cut my hair short, she gave me a brush cut,therefore allowing me more energy for school work.

I got my first strapping from Miss McKay for passing a note ( which turned out to be naughty ) from the girl in front of me to the girl behind. No names please - they will know.

I reached grade eight in June 1937, returning one afternoon in October I believe it was, to get pictures of the whole gang.

Submitted by Irene Schmidt

My grandfather and grandmother Schmidt, although of German ancestry, were born near Odessa, Russia and emigrated to North Dakota in the 1880's along with Grandad's parents, his brother and sisters. They later moved to Yorkton, Saskatchewan where my father was born in 1892. They farmed there until 1903 when they moved to Meadow Bank where Grandad took up a homestead, the NE ¼ of section 26. Dad farmed the SE ¼ of section 24 which was his homestead.

My mother, the former Alice Hosker, was born in Southport, Lanas, England and came to Canada along with her parents and sister, Amelia in 1913. Uncle Jack Hosker was already here, but he returned to England when the war broke out.

Mom and Dad were married in 1916 and settled on Dad's farm where we cotin ed to live until 1937 when we moved to ri ish Columbia. We lived at Langle, for some years and came to our present home in Burnaby near Vancouver in 1952.

My earliest recollection of school is being taken there by my mother in our Model T ord. at would e in 1923. As time went on I used to go with the owan children. In summertime we walked and in winter we went by horse and sleigh.

We had our long holida, in the winter. School closed at Christmas and did not open again until a o t March. This way we did not have to travel during the severly cold weather.

I remember that there was a wire fence down the middle of the school yard in my early days at school. The boys played on one side of the playground, the girls on the other side. Around the inside of the fence surrounding the yard were several plowed furrows to act as a fire guard in case of grass fires. Fortunately, we never had any.

When I was 10 years old my parents, bought me a red pony to ride to school. One morning in early winter there were icy patches on the road. As we passed over the culvert the grade was rather steep, the pony slipped and fell on her side on the grade with her feet pointing upward. I was caught underneath her and could not get free as she was lying on my left leg. However, as she bravely struggled to regain her feet I was able to get a little further out each time she raised herself up a little. Eventually we both got back on our feet and continued on to school.

My teacher, during my last school years was Mona McKay. She also taught my brother, Dennis who now lives near Penticton. My younger brother, Gerald also attended Duck Creek school for awhile before we left. He now lives at Gibsons, B. C. Vernon, the youngest is in Allison, Ontario.

## Thomas Henry Seed

I, Thomas Henry Seed or Harry, as I was known, born in England in the County of Lancaster on June 26, 1908. My father was Richard Henry Seed, a farm laborer.

Mother, Clara Margaret (Smith) Seed. They were both English. I have one brother, William Archie Seed, born in England on February 6, 1910.

In the spring of 1911 we came to Canada to Wadena and north to Meadow Bank district. We lived NE ¼ Sec. 28 36 12 W2nd, and a few other farms around there.

Since we lived too far from school I did not start school until I was ten years old. I went to Orpington one year 1918, then changed to Duck Creek school from 1919 to 1922, then I quit school to help at home. I worked at home until 1929, then worked out for a year or two.

In 1931 I married Stella Osterlin, and we bought NW ¼ 15 -38-12 W2nd from C.N.R. and we lived there until 1972.Then sold it and moved to the town of Rose Valley.

We have a big garden on our lot and go fishing quite a lot, also visit our family. We have one girl and four boys so that kept us busy.

## The Scramstad family - submitted by Olga Patrick

Nickolai Scramstad came to Canada from Norway in 1906 and settled in Winnipeg, Manitoba and worked as a carpenter. In 1909 Marie Flostrand came to Winnipeg from Norway to be married. They were married June 1, 1910 living on in Winnipeg for a time and oldest child, Sylvia, being born there.

Later, they took up a homestead north of Winnipeg at Mulvihill, Manitoba where their other five children were born.

Dad, not being a farmer, went back to his former occupation and began building elevators, working for the Searle Grain Company for many years. Whenever he wrote home, there was big "S" on his letterhead stationery of the Searle Grain, but we children all thought it stood for Scramstad.

We attended Nora school at Mulvihill, only two and one half miles from home.

Like all children, we got in a bit of trouble. We had been forbidden to play on the threshing machine separator, but in spite of it, Mac would continue to slide on the elevator of the machine, and one day fell and hurt his arm. . We laid him in the straw stack to rest, but it didn't help the pain, so we finally had to confess to mother who found he had a broken arm. He had to be taken into Winnipeg to the hospital, as that was the closest point for any medical problems.

In 1927 Dad came home and said he had a half section of land, at a place called Hendon in Saskatchewan, so we loaded all our household effects and livestock in two box cars and headed west arriving at Hendon on April 10. Mr. Martin Tweidt met us with the team and sleigh and took us to Oscar Soderquists to stay, as they found the roof had fallen in on what was to be our new home. Dad and Sig got busy and put a new roof on and added a kitchen and soon we were in our new home. Later an upstairs, a permanent kitchen and another bedroom was added.

Now we children had to start school at Rotnum. Our first year we all had mumps, one after the other, so missed a lot of school and had a long holiday.

Shortly after we came to Hendon, Our cousin, Sven Hanson, came from Norway and stayed with us. The next year his brother, Arni came and called himself Arni Flostrand as he lived on the Flostrand farm in Norway. Arni married Mabel Lindstrom, who taught school at Rotnum.

Mr. & Mrs. N. Scrumstad

The following year, their father came from Norway and his name was Hans Anderson. Brother John also arrived and later they all changed their surname to Flostrand. They built a house just across the main road and south of our home place, now owned by Carl Tweidt.

The cousins all worked with Dad on elevator work.

Arni now lives in Burnaby, B.C. and Sven lives in Keewatin, Ontario. John lived at Warren, Manitoba and since passed away. Uncle Hans returned to Norway.

Dad stayed on elevator work for many years. After we children grew up and left home, mother was home alone much of the time, and it was one of these times while alone that the house caught fire and burned down. Dad, and Mac, who was also on elevator work, came home and built a new one-storey house. At that time Mac decided to stay home and do the farming.

Dad retired every fall, but when spring came he once again got itchy feet and came out of retirement, but finally after a few years of this, he stayed home doing carpenter work in the local areas.

Mother and Dad travelled quite a lot in their later years, twice to Norway and winters usually at the East or West coast.

In 1960 they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, and they could also look back on 33 years spent in the Rotnum district. Mother served on the local school board for some years and both Mother and Dad instrumental in organising the local Evangelical Free Church. They lived on the farm until Dad passed away in 1961 and Mother in 1962.

Sylvia finished her schooling in Manitoba so went to Snow's School in Regina to take up dressmaking, millinery and tailoring. She had her first shop in Wadena in the Kingland home. Myrtle Torgerson and myself stayed with her and went to school there.

Later Sylvia moved her shop to Kelvington, working there for some time until she married Bernard Suttle of Wilkie, Saskatchewan. They farmed at Wilkie for a few years, then moved to Thunder Bay, Ontario where they still live. Sylvia worked as nurses aide in a nursing home there for some years, but now they are both retired. They have one son, Barry who is married with two children and they live nearby. Bernard and Sylvia spend a lot of time at the lake in summer, also manage to come back to Hendon district quite often to check up on the rest of the family.

Sigfred went to Rotnum School for a short while, then on leaving, went with Dad on elevator work for awhile. In 1937 he married Mabel Garrison and soon after they moved to Sunny Glen, near Wilkie where he bought grain for some years. During the war they moved to Montreal, where Sig was a machinist instructor for Canadian Propellros. They came back to farm in 1944.

They had four children who all attended Rotnum School. Carol became a nurse and lives in Moose Jaw, she is married to Murray Johnstone.

Leslie Mae is a laboratory technician, working in the hospital at Claresholm, Alberta. She is married to David Atkinson.

Debra lives at Lacombe, Alberta and is a computer and field crops technologist with Alberta Agriculture.

Wayne worked for Sask Tel for many years, then moved to Salmon Arm, B.C. where he works for B.C. Tel. He is married to Gertrude Schellenberg and has two children, Douglas and Cheryl. Sig passed away in 1976 and Mabel now lives in Wadena.

Olga went to Rotnum School, then took her high school in Wadena. Olga, Mabel and Mabel Garrison did light housekeeping for a couple of years. None of us knew how to cook, but it wasn't too important as they went home every weekend, and the mothers packed food for another week. By Friday rations were slim and Mabel would concoct something like pancakes, giving it a fancy name Twiss-a-la-mode. Mabel has the recipe on request!

Olga then moved to Kelvingyon where she did hairdressing, then married Fred Patrick. They have three children, Gerald, Patricia and Roy.

Gerald and his wife, Marguerite own and operate the Colden Toyota at Colden, B.C. They have four children. Patricia and her husband, Mervin Clark have three children and they farm seven miles east of Rotnum School site.

Roy and his wife, Rhonda have two children and live in Colden, B. C. as well where they own and operate the A. & W. drive in, as well as the Mohawk service station.

Fred and Olga operated a store, locker plant and the Auction Market at Kelvington until they sold out in 1974 and retired. They do a lot of travelling, since purchasing a motor home but still make their home in Kelvington and are enjoying their free time.

Mac (Magnus) went out on elevator work after he left Rotnum school but in 1941 he decided to stay home and become a farmer. He also began helping Jessie Mahlum, the local auctioneer at auction sales, acting as his clerk. After getting a bit of practice in auctioneering, he decided he wanted to become one as well, and went to School in Mason City Iowa and became an auctioneer of some fame.

Mac married Hilda Anderson of Wadena who worked as nurses aide at the local hospital. They continued to live on the farm until 1974, when they moved to the northern outskirts of Wadena. They operated the Wadena Auction Market until Jan. 1980 when they sold to F&B Feed Lot. Their daughter, Marcella attended Rotnum school, took business College in Saskatoon and later married Merlin Pokarson, a local boy. They now make their home in Edmonton where Marcella is busy looking after three children. Son, Bradly loves music and is a one man band, hitting the local night spots in B.C. as he lives in Salmon Arm, since his marriage to Elaine Greenberg. Mac is semi-retired but still likes to keep his hand in real estate.

Mabel went from Rotnum School to Wadena High School, then on to Winnipeg where she entered General Hospital to become an R.N. She continued to nurse at the General after graduating, then went to nurse in Halifax during the war years. There she met Don MacPherson who had joined the Navy Medical Corps and was interning and after their marriage, they came west for their honeymoon. Don had never been on a farm, but Mac put him to work to haul grain with a tractor and trailer as it was harvest time. After much trial and error, he was able to make the hills with his load and enjoyed his experience. They have four children and all the family live in Ontario. Daughter, Margaret, a bookkeeper, is married and lives in Toronto, son Rawden, is in insurance, following his fathers footsteps Adopted daughters, Linda and Diane live in Waterloo. Mabel and Don continue to live in Waterloo since their retirement, but spend a good deal of time at Lake Simcoe in the summer where they have a house boat and in the winter they go south with the birds.

Alma, our baby sister, went to Rotnum School, and then took three years at Two Rivers Bible Institute at Carlea Sask. In 1941 she left for Prince Rupert where she married Howard Toftager, formerly of Hendon.

While living there, Alma was always busy, driving milk truck, dental assisstant, she liked to try something new! After spending some years in Terrace where both their children were born, they moved to Surrey B.C. Where Alma operated the Cedar Grove Motel, while Howard worked in the office of B.C. highways at Cloverdale.

In 1977 they sold their Motel and retired to Kamloops, where their son Terry lives. He is married, has two children and is an accomplished musician, operating a music store in Swahali Centre in the city of Kamloops. Daughter Laurie, also an accomplished Musician and teacher. She is married and lives in Vancouver, where she still has a position pertaining to Education, with B.C. Govt.

Submitted by Alma Toftager (Scramstad)

My first teacher was Miss Burnet, the year 1927 I think. Others were Miss Bryant, Mr. Spencer, Miss Dalshag, Miss Lindstrom and Mr. Leitch. The teachers in my mind as a child were the models of behavior, dress, language and knowledge for the district.

I have met several of those teachers in recent years and was surprised to find Miss. Bryant is such a small lady. She seemed so much bigger to me when I was in the lower grades. She is a sweet lady still.

When Miss. Lindstrom was teaching, it made me feel quite important to carry her notes to my cousin, whom she later married and to bring his notes to her.

While she boarded at Garrison's, I often had a ride to school with her. In the winter time Leslie and I would scoop up snow and make snowballs and she would throw them at Rodney the horse to get a bit more speed.

We enjoyed softball, football, spelling and geography bees. It seemed as if we practised for weeks for the Christmas program. It was the highlight of the year.

During History class, I remember making sets of eyes on a narrow strip of paper, cutting slits by the ears of King Henry VII in my book. After removing the original eyes in the picture, I inserted the strip, and by sliding it back and forth, produced comical expressions to the face. I think Julius Caesar and others got the same treatment. It made history more interesting.

Leaving out the next forty or more years, we are living in Kamloops, "trying to retire". Howard and I have two grown and married children and two grandchildren. (Isn't it amazing how smart and good grandchildren are?) We attend an active church, have many friends and are thankful for good health, we are enjoying life.

Submitted by Sylvia Suttle (Scramstad).

I have been away from the Rotnum- Hendon district for forty-five years, but I can still remember the good neighbors. The Garrison's, Mahlum's, Twiedt's, Hanson's, Carlson's, Ostlie's and many, many more. Our mother was on the school board, and I remember Mr. Garrison and Mr. Mahlum being on the board at the same time- who else I cannot recall.

I did not attend Rotnum School, as I had finished school by the time we moved from Mulvihill Man., where my father had homesteaded.

Both my parents had originally come from Norway and Dad being a carpenter by trade, worked for the Searle Grain for many years. I can still remember the Sec. we lived on, Sec.14-36-13, three and one half miles east of Hendon to be exact.

Bernard and I are now retired here in Thunder Bay.

The Scramstad Family.

Submitted by Mabel Scramstad (Garrison).

Mr. and Mrs. Sig Scramstad.

I was born and raised in the Rotnum district on the N.W.¼24-36-13. I started school in 1924 at the age of five, probably to keep my brother Leslie company. My first teacher was Elsie Brice of Wadena.

I must have had a series of very good teachers for in June 1930 I wrote my Departmental exams for grade eight at the Victoria Park School which had been declared a centre.

I can recall after writing exams all day, I quite often had to walk home the four miles, as Dad was busy in the fields and our only mode of transportation was the horse and buggy.

Submitted by Mabel MacPherson (Scramstad)

I began Rotnum School in Grade IV after coming from Man. I do recall some of my teachers but in what order, I'm not sure there was Miss Wyatt and Mr. Spencer. I also recall going to school with Dorothy Evans, Lil Torgerson, Mabel Garrison, Leonard Harrison and Melvin Sweidt.

Don and I are retired here in Waterloo Ont. and enjoy the summer days on our houseboat.

I think I must have been a real tomboy and the bone of my teachers life. For I can recall quite a few times having to be punished for fighting; Sammy Evans and I always seemed to want to sweep our boots off at the same time!

Two of the annual events for which I have fond memories are the Christmas Concert and the end of the year school picnic, I can still taste the good homemade ice cream, made with lots of rich cream and eggs and turned for hours by hand in Scramstad's wooden ice cream freezer.

Some of my classmates were Sylvia Harrison, Selma Soderquist, Dorothy Evans and Mabel Scramstad. (Now a sister-in-law).

I was married in I937 to Sig Scramstad and our first home was at Sunny Glen Sask., where he bought grain, until I942. When we moved to Montreal, Que., where he was a machinist. In I944 we moved back and lived at Hendon, were we took over my father's farm and had expanded our operations, until Sig passed away in I976.

I have rented the farm and am presently living in the town of Wadena.

Our four children are scattered, Wayne in Salmon Arm B.C. Carole, in Moose Jaw and two youngest daughters in Alberta.

Submitted by Wayne Scramstad.

I was born to proud parents Sig and Mabel Scramstad, at Unity, Sask. Dad was a grain buyer for the Searle Grain Co., at nearby Sunny Glen.

My sister, Carole followed me by two years and then, in I942 when I was three years old, we moved to Montreal, where Dad was a machinist for Canadian Propellors. While in Montreal, Carole and I had many French playmates, so by the time we returned to the Rotnum district in I944 we could both speak French fluently.

Dad began farming on my grandfather Garrison's farm and in time two more sisters arrived, Leslie and Debbie.

Carole and I were the caretakers of Rotnum School for some time and hauling water, lighting fires and sweeping floors. I remember one incident when we were on our way to school with the horse and tobaggan and our cream can of water. The bottom came out of the tobaggan, out went Carole and the cream can. No one was hurt and I often think that the caretaking job was good experience for us.

For the most part my days in Rotnum were very pleasant. I remember the many social events, hallowe'en parties, box socials and Christmas Concerts. Sports were a very important part of our school days. Two of my teachers Mr. McGrenera and Mr. Harcourt, both had us very much involved in track and field and soft ball. Frank would load us up in the back of his half ton INTERNATIONAL truck and take us to play ball at Duck Creek School. We used to win all those games!!! Our

field meets were held at Meadow Bank and Wadena.

After leaving high school in Wadena. I married Gertarde Schiltenberg of Kindersly, I'm working for Sask. Tel. We now have two children Douglas age I3, and Cheryl age I2 years.

We moved here to Salmon Arm in the sunny Okanagan, in I974 and am presently employed with B.C. Tel.

Submitted by Carole Johnstone (Scramstad).

My memory is undoutedly not as sharp as that of my grandfather Jay Garrison; There are however, a few scattered recollections about Rotnum School days,

Mr. Wilfred Harcourt is the first teacher that I can recall. He remains in my mind as the one who suggested to my parents that I needed an eye examination, probably frustrated by my wrong answers, he was certain there was either a mental handicap or a visual handicap, and chose to pursue the later possibility. Getting glasses, and moving from a world of fuzziness into a world of distinct shapes and colors was a great event of my primary grades. And to Mr. Harcourt's delight I actually made some progress in school work.

The years following are a medley of memories; school picnics with homemade ice cream, Christmas concerts, recesses and noon hours spent "acting" in our Caragana hedge settings, tobaggan and cutter rides to school amd making hot chocolate for dinner, using "real cream".

Then in I952 I started a diary and with its help recall a very confusing year. Miss Marion Allen was hired as supervisory teacher until Oct. 3Ist. For the month of November, Mrs. T. Avery taught us and following her departure the students worked at home with the aid of correspondence courses. When Rotnum finally did hire a teacher, Mr. Frank McGrenera on Jan. 7th, I953 our education was back on the right trail, for in my diary notation on Jan. 8th, I read "Dear D. The new teacher threatened to strap us today"!

Besides the confusion, I952-53 also gave us a lot of fun. That was the year the entire school took part in printing a newspaper and learned new skills many of us have probably never forgotten.

Another aspect od Mr. McGrenera's term was his stress on neatness and cleanliness. I especially recall his emphasis on "walking into a clean kitchen, and seeing a crisp, starched tablecloth on the kitchen table". Even though the advice isn't always implemented in later years. The impression remains on my mind.

When Mr. McGrenera left in June of I953, our school term with a new teacher Mrs. Mary Gutek began. By this time our numbers had dwindled and there remained only three grade eight students. Always wanting her students to do "their best", Mrs. Gutek offered us $I.00 cash for each mark of I00% in our JUne I954 exams. I'm not sure how

much money she had to spend, but her idea really motivated us.

As this term ended we undoutedly were very anxious to leave Rotnum School and get on with something "bigger". Only now when we have but memories to feed on, do we realize that Rotnum WAS the "biggest" and "best".

Submitted by Leslie Atkinson (Scramstad).

I was the third child born to Sig and Mabel Scramstad the year after they left Montreal to take up farming in the Rotnum district. My first home was on the N.W.¼ 24- 36-I3, later moving to the N.W.¼ I3- 36-I3. My first teacher was Wilf Harcourt from Leroy, Sask. And in my final year was Don Leitch. Frank McGrenera and Mary Gutek were in between. My classmates were Marie Tweidt, Ray Gutek and Arlene Schau.

Some of my most vivid memories of school days was my intense dislike of the multiplication tables and I always seemed to manage to miss school on the day we were to be sent to the board to write them out.

I liked to drive the horse and cutter and race around corners, sometimes upsetting the whole thing, was great fun, when all went well. I often wonder if Calvin remembers wearing his bib overalls to school, being of slight build, was a prime target for Robert and Ellery to pick up and hang him by the straps of his overalls on the coat hooks in the cloakroom.

Like my brother and sister before me, I had a stint at being caretaker. My first pay cheque was a real thrill! After graduation from Wadena High, I went on to University in Regina. I graduated as a Hospital Laboratory Technoligist in I966.

Following graduation, I worked in Wadena, and Stanton Yellowknife N.W.T. I then took a year to return to University in Saskatoon, Next on to ST. Peters Hospital in Melville, Followed by a two year stint in the far northern port of Frobisher Bay. On my return I took a position at the University Hospital in Saskatoon. Once more I thought it was time for a change, and was the successfull applicant at the General Hospital in Claresholm Alta.

It would seem I have become a permenent resident here, as I was married in April I978 to a native son of Claresholm, David Atkinson.

Submitted by Debbie Scramstad.

I was the youngest of four children, two sisters and one brother, born to Sig and Mabel Scramstad. By the time I was ready to start school, my older sister Leslie was being bussed to Wadena for her high school. I never minded walking to school by myself, for I recall what fun it was to stop and put out food for the rabbits. Not that I could

get near them, but if I didn't happen to like the menu for the day I could always leave bits of it in the ditch along the way, hoping the rabbits would find it.

Don Leitch was my first teacher for the first three years and my most vivid recollection was singing solo "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer". Attired in a brand new red velvet dress, needless to say singing did not become my career.

In 1964, by the time I was ready to enter grade V, a decision had been made to close Rotnum school and bus the children to Wadena. Lloyd Nelson of Hendon was my last teacher. Larry Tweidt was a classmate of mine through public and high school.

I graduated from High School in 1971 and after taking a year at University in Saskatoon, I got the urge to travel. In 1972-73 I spent seven months travelling through Europe, the last three months being spent in Norway working, studying the language and contacting my dads relatives.

Again in 1973-74 I spent six months in New Zealand and Australia and then decided it was time to complete my education. In 1977 I graduated from the University in Saskatoon in Land Use and Envoronmental Studies. That winter I accepted a temporary position in Lethbridge Alta. at the Research Station and later with Alberta Fish and Wildlife in Red Deer. I then went on to a permanent position with Alberta Agriculture in Lacombe Alta. as Computor and Field Crops Technologist, where I am presently employed.

Submitted by Marcella Hokanson (Scramstad).

My memories of Rotnum School days get a bit hasy, but I do remember my teachers and classmates for the most part.

In grade I Mr. Harcourt was my teacher with Robert Ladubec and Ellery Leepart my classmates. Then came Frank McGrenera, Mrs Gutek Don Leitch and for a few months Marion Allen did her duty in helping keep our school open for want of a teacher.

I can remember the cold winter days when we drove to school with the horse and toboggan, using hot bricks to keep us warm.

Another memory is of everyone drinking water from a pail and all using the same dipper. All went well and no thought of germs, until we found a dead mouse in the water supply.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Smith.

Wayne and Gladys Smith came to the district from Coronach Sask. in April 1934. They lived on the N.E.¼ II. In the summer of 1934 they moved to the Wolverton district. Had a family of three sons, Burton and Lawerance, Gerald who passed away when a baby. Two daughters, Vera and Carlene.

They retired in Wadena. Wayne passed away. And later Gladys married Mr. George Campell. After George passed away Gladys moved to Saskatoon. She now has moved to Winnipeg were she has retired.

Burton and Lawerance both went to school at Duck Creek. They went from April 1934 till the end of June.

Burton was in the American Air Force. In the second World War he served from 1939 to 1945, He made the Services his lifes career and now lives in Florida.

Lawrence was in the Canadian Army Serving over seas in the second World War.

Lawrence now lives in Winnipeg, has a family of three.

Mr. and Mrs. Severt Sunde.

Evelyn was the only daughter of Severt and Inez Sunde. They had moved into the Rotnum area after coming from south western Saskatchewan.

They lived for a time with Inez's mother, Mrs. Distad, and farmed the N.E.¼ 8-36-12, the land now owned by Ken Leitch.

Mrs. Distad, a widow, later married A.F.Anderson, owner of the local store in Hendon. Evelyn attended Duck Creek as well as Rotnum Schools.

Her cousin, Stewart Whipple attended Duck Creek for a time in the 1928-29 term.

Mr. & Mrs. Sven Torgerson

Sven Torgerson was born at St. Peters, Nicolet County, Minnesota while Petrina Martinson was born at Boda, Norway, coming to Landa, North Dakota with her mother, brothers and sisters in 1896, at the age of twelve years.

After living in the U.S.A. for some time after their marriage, Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson moved to Piapot, Saskatchewan. In 1930 they moved from there with their family to the Hendon - Rotnum area.

Mr.& Mrs. Torgerson

All of their daughters attended Rotnum School, the boys being older had received their schooling in Piapot.

Mrs. Torgerson was a busy mother - her children speak of seeing her churning butter using her foot to operate the churn while knitting socks and doing a bit of reading on the side. During her stay in the Rotnum district she took on the Janitor duties for the school and when she had scrubbed the floor you knew it had been scrubbed!

Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson are both remembered among the neighbors for their thoughful ness and gave a helping hand to anyone in need. Mrs. Torgerson was midwife for many of the babies born in this area.

Tom Whitehead, who lived on the next farm to Sven, speaks of the spring when seeding was at hand, and he was laid up with his back. Sven was on the scene without hesitation, offering to do his seeding.

Many good social gatherings were in the Torgerson home and their two younger daughters, Lillian and Frances were great little singers and people loved to hear them sing. A great favorite of that time was "Wreck of the old 97".

Mr. & Mrs. Torgerson were able to celebrate their 65th Wedding Anniversary together, with their family and friends.

Mrs. Torgerson passed away in Lanigan hospital at age 90, and Sven later at a Nursing home in Saskatoon, age 93.

Lillian Coen (Torgerson)

I was the fifth child born to Mr. & Mrs. Sven Torgerson while they were living at Piapot. In all we were a family of seven children, brothers Gilbert of Lintlaw, Percy of Piapot, Sidney of Calgary and sisters, Myrtle Spencer of Surrey, B.C. , Frances Leitch of Leroy and Jeanette Hamilton of Quesnel, B.C.

I married Sigfried Coen of Lanigan in July 1941. He had moved to Lanigan in 1939 and being a pharmacist, had purchased a drugstore which we operated until December of 1978. We have purchased a house in Lanigan and are now enjoying our retirement.

We have a family of two children. Garth and his wife, Irene have two daughters, Kendra and Amanda and they live in Saskatoon. Daughter Gail and her husband, Garry Hruska have one daughter, Andrea and live in Kimberly, B. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Tweidt,
submitted by Bella Tweidt

In the year of nineteen twenty-four and the month of October, the Martin Tweidt family piled into the already packed (in and outside) Model T Ford, all nine of us, to the amazement and concern of our good friends and neighbors, to leave our North Dakota farm home and the land of our birth and childhood of us children, for a journey of adventure and a new abode. At the same time we were a sober bunch that morning, leaving the old home and all our friends and school mates.

This journey took us five days, driving east and west yet heading for the north, there being no definite main roads. Dad depended on directions given at stops. Entering Canada at North Portal, we drove into Estevan for the first night stop-over, the second night found us in Regina, then Balcarres, the third night going through Qu'Appelle Valley down the then steep hills was an adventure in itself. Almost too much so, as we came down rather swiftly on the winding road, then going up the other side. We decided to get out at one point and braced stones against the hind wheels for a stop, before going on. We arrived at the top with relief. We had packed our food and replenished it along the way. The youngest of the family became restless, needing action by riding the car door as his horse. This required holding on to his coat tail with a firm hold and this went on at odd times during the journey. The fine October weather was in our favor and we passed threshing outfits all along the way. We found ourselves at Kandahar the last night in a Hotel. The next morning we looked out with surprise at the large body of water. Could this maybe be the Arctic Ocean? (to us prairie born children)

Then we drove on to Chebo and then to Wadena. After a short time of inspection there, we went on north and found we were at the Claus Oberg farm where a crowd was gathered. After getting directions to go east, we came to the O. Soderquist farm known to Dad, and where we were invited for supper. Finally that evening, we arrived at the Julius Johnson farm, our journey's end. The small house was one room downstairs and smaller upstairs, yet we found places to sleep, on the floor at first for some of us, though the house was partially furnished.

The next day was Sunday. I remember Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hanson walked down to offer us their friendship and help, which they and others gave to us.

A week of good weather continued, so we were able to get somewhat settled, though our trunks with most of our clothes did not arrive until near Christmas. The following fall I returned to Hendon to help Mother in a household of growing boys. Sister Mable, in the meantime, had married and they lived at the Hendon school where Ruby taught.

Later during the years there were changes in our family, including weddings and the brothers moved out in the near neighborhood. I then returned south across the border and on to Seattle, Washington where I prepared for and entered the Nursing field until I retired there. I returned to the Hendon area almost yearly to be with my ever expanding family units.

There has been progress and improvement noted on each visit in the Wadena and Hendon areas with the rest of the country. The roads now paved for travelling are way beyond what we first drove over coming up in that faithful old Model T Ford!

## Mabel Henrietta Dressler (Tweidt)

I came from Plaza, North Dakota in October 1924 with my parents, five brothers and a sister. Then in 1927 brother, Donald Henry was born. We moved onto a farm in the Rotnum district, about 3½ miles east of the Rotnum School. I attended Rotnum school for a few years and the teachers were Miss Brice, Henry Lowen and Percy Heffren.

Our neighbors were a very friendly and grand people like the Hansons, Carlsons, Rotnems, Harrisons, Soderquists, Macks and many others.

I recall it was a cold winter, the temperatures going down to 50 or more below zero. Our father had told us there were many prairie chickens and partridges. They were so tame you could just go out and hit them on the head, so of course Carl, Alfred and I got on our skis, then across the snow to get some for dinner. We had been told that they were good to eat, however, we found out that it wasn't quite that easy.

The mail came in to Hendon by train about three days a week, and the post office was in the Arvid Anderson's store. That was about the only place of business in Hendon then.

I used to go for the mail by horseback on a white horse called Lady. At times, I would also ride a grey dappled horse and he was called Jack. The young people of our family also got around by an ordinary toboggan pulled by one horse. I also recall having a friend from Hendon driving out to our farm by dog sled and pulled by five dogs.

In 1929 I married a dashing school teacher, by the name of Rudy Dressler, who came to teach at Victoria Park School near Hendon. That location now is just a big grain field. We lived at Victoria Park for a year and then moved to Churchbridge, Saskatchewan; Rudy's home district.

Submitted by Alfred J. Tweidt

I immigrated, with my parents, from Plaza, North Dakota, U.S.A. arriving in the Hendon area in October 1924.

My father was a farmer by occupation and he purchased a farm in the Rotnum School District. The farmststead location was NE ¼ Sec. 12, Twsp. 36, Range 13, W.2nd M.

Martin and Maria Tweidt, both of Norwegian descent, had eight children living and all but one were with them when they came to Canada. Della, Carl, Mabel, Alfred, Melvin, Bennie, Selmer were the children who immigrated. Donald was born on the farm in the Rotnum District.

I began in the fourth grade at Rotnum, and if my memory serves me right, there were three girls in this grade; Mary and Gwen Evans and Magna Carlson. As I recall, the school enrolment included Ruth, Sylvia and Leonard Harrison, Hans and Linnea Hanson, Roy and Clifford Rotnum, John, Mary and Gwen Evans, Magna Carlson, Leslie Garrison, Mabel, Melvin and Alfred Tweidt. The teacher was Miss Elsie Brice.

I completed my Eighth grade 1928-29. The teacher then was Charlie Spencer. Those who wrote their exams in that year were: Olga and Magnus Scramstad, Mary and Owen Evans, Leslie Garrison and myself.

My most vivid memories of my school days were the years it was my job to have the old stove going so that the school was warmed up for the arrival of the other students. It meant getting up early in the mornings and walking 1½ miles in weather sometimes 35 degrees below zero.

After completing my school years, I farmed in the Rotnum district for a number of years. In 1951 I married Dorothy Hardy and moved to Wadena, Saskatchewan where I was in business for 27 years until I retired in 1978. My wife and I still reside in Wadena.

Bennie Andrew Tweidt

I, Bennie Andrew Tweidt was born to Martin Daniel and Inger Marie Tweidt, in May 25, 1920 at Plaza, North Dakota, U.S.A

In the fall of 1924 at the age of 4½ years, together with my parents, two sisters, Della, Mabel and four brothers, Carl, Alfred, Melvin and Selmer set out in a 1917 Ford touring car for our new home at Hendon, Saskatchewan, the NE¼ Sec. 12 tsp.36 range 13 W2ND. Farming and carpenter work being my father's profession.

Both my parents were born and raised in Norway, having emigrated to the United States in the early 1900's. My mother was the former Inger Marie Urdahl.

In the spring of 1926 I commenced school at Rotnum school #4347. During my school years I had several teachers, Miss Burnett, Miss Bryant, Mrs. Mack, Charlie Spencer, Miss M. Lindstrom, Miss E. Dalshaug and D.E. Leitch.

My classmates at Rotnum were John and Edith Hanson, Alma Scramstad and for a short while Gladia Amos.

After quitting school in 1936, I worked on the farm for Carl Hanson during the summer months and for one year and a half at the Post Office at Middle Lake as assistant Postmaster.

For a number of years while attending school I had the job as fireman at the school. I remember many cold and stormy, dark winter mornings having to walk the distance of approximately one and a half miles to school and coax a stubborn wood stove into heating an uninsulated building to a resemblance of warmth before the pupils arrived.

On cold blizzardy days, the building just would not warm up and then it was the rule of the day to stay fully clothed in outer wear for most of the day. Our feet were constantly cold. We always had to keep our lunch buckets stacked under and around the stove to keep from freezing.

In those days which were the years of the "dirty thirties" my wages were ten cents a day (and how I froze for those few cents a day). I was allowed one box of matches per winter or season of

firing. I remember one year running short of matches, so put in requisition for an extra box. (the cost of a box of matches at that time was ten cents per box). I was sorely reprimanded for using so many matches! How little they understood how stubborn that old wood stove could be on windy cold days.

In the spring of 1942 I enlisted in the United States Navy. After my basic training at San Diego, California, I spent the remaining war years serving abroad a U.S. Destroyer in the South Pacific, Aleutian Islands, Philippines, Malasia and Indonesia areas.

After my discharge from the Navy in the winter of 1945, I purchased the farm I now live on.

In the month of June, 1946 I married Hertha Malkenthin of Middle Lake, Saskatchewan, having met her before the war, while working at the Post Office there.

We raised three children, two daughters and one son. Donna, Mrs. Robert McEwen of Quill Lake, Lowell, who is presently in Kuala Limpur, Malasia with Imperial Oil and our youngest, Kathlyn is a dental assistant at Medicine Hat, Alberta.

For the past ten years I have been working as office clerk and Insurance Salesman with A.J. Tweidt Agencies and presently with the new agents, Wadena Agencies Ltd.

We still live on the farm which we have rented to one of our nephews.

Donna McEwen (Tweidt)

I am the eldest daughter of Ben & Hertha Tweidt and was raised very close to Rotnum School on SE ¼ of Sec 13, Twp. 36 Rge 13.

Dad was of Norwegian descent ,and came from North Dakota as a boy in 1924. Mom was of German descent, her family name being Molkenthin, and was born and raised at Middle Lake.

I remember Mrs. Frank Gutek as my first teacher and then Don Leitch.

We had the janitor duties for a few years and I also remember a few of the activities taking place at Rotnum. We always had a Bingo and Turkey shoot in November, and so when the Lutefish supper came around in Hendon, we school children would go ther and sell tickets on the coming turkey shoot. From the money taken in, each pupil would be given a certain amount to order a Christmas gift for themselves, which they would then receive the night of the concert. It seemed as though most of the month of December was spent practising for the concert.

We girls used to make playhouses in the carragana hedge west of the school and in summer spent most of our recesses and noon hours playing there.

There was an empty dugout east of the barn on the Schau property and boys and girls together would play cowboy and Indians from there.

The older girls always seemed to help the younger ones and we spent part of the time on warm June days, studying outside in the sunshine, getting ready for our June exams.

The really exciting times was when we were to have a ball game against another rural school.

I later married a farm boy, Robert McEwen of Quill Lake, Saskatchewan. We have two children.

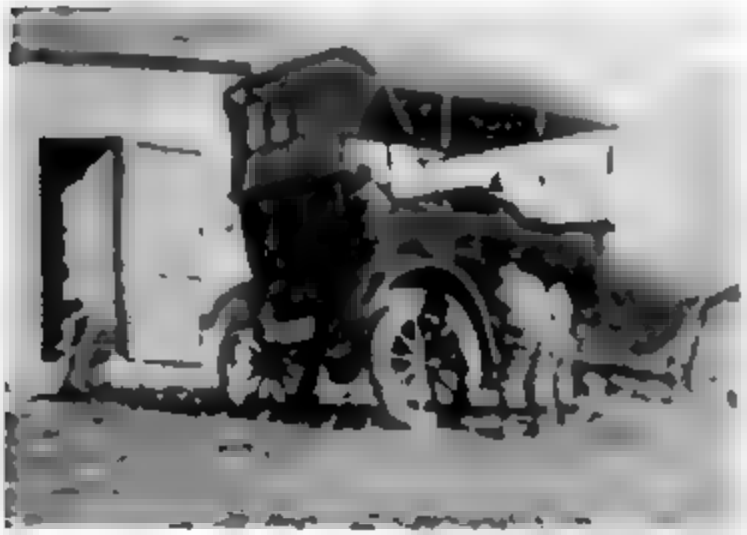
Carl Tweidt

My father, Martin Tweidt, emigrated from Norway to the U.S.A. about the year 1906. After working on farms and lumber camps for a couple of years in Minnesota he homesteaded near Plaza, North Dakota in 1908. Mother also came out from Norway that year, so they were married and pioneered together and raised a family.

The dry years that struck Saskatchewan and some of the other provinces in the late twenties and thirties came to North Dakota some years earlier.

So in the spring of 1924 Dad decided to look for greener pastures. Knowing a friend north of Radisson, Saskatchewan, he went to see him. He ended up buying a quarter section of land that corners the land that the school was built on, which at least meant being close to school.

Early that fall, we piled in to the old Model T touring car, Dad, Mother and seven of us kids. Much as we hated to leave our native country, it was a great adventure for all of us.



The Touring car

The last tree is cut when the land is cleared

There were no highways running North and South at that time, so we were zig zagging back and forth and finally got here on the day of 24th of October.

We had beautiful sunshine weather here that fall, which helped us to get adjusted to our new surroundings. Our house had one room downstairs and one upstairs which served as the bedroom and being partially furnished there was one bed. We made some beds from small poplar poles and straw mattressesto be used for awhile. Wood was plentiful so there was no reason to freeze unless we got lazy. Most of our bedding was shipped in trunks, but did not arrive until much before Christmas. Our neighbors were always ready to help with things that we needed.

My oldest sister and I had finished our public school that spring, so I did not go to school at Kotnum, but enjoyed many Christmas concerts and school picnics there. Also, many of the school ~~marms~~ were an added attraction!

Water was plentiful in all the sloughs those years, and most of them had muskrats in them. I liked trapping. But trapping soon came to an end around home not being familiar with boundaries. I set traps in an adjoining slough that had a lot of nice big musk rats in it. The next morning when I went to check my traps I discovered that I had a rat in all but one. I thought I'd better go and see who the other trapper was. It was our neighbor, Axel Carlson whose quarter joined ours. He said, "How many rats did you get" "I only got one little rat, you must be a better trapper than I am, but you are trapping in my slough. I offered him the rats but he said "you keep the rats".

I had to look for other trapping grounds and make sure I wasn't trespassing again. Later on in the winter Dad and I were putting up green wood to be seasoned for the next year. We went out one frosty morning and not having a thermometer we didn't know how frosty it was. Dad went to cut a green tree and took a big piece of steel out of a new axe. We heard later it had been over 50 degrees Farenheit, below zero that morning.

Later on in the winter, a neighbor, Joseph Hanson came over and wanted me to come and work for him, hauling feed to the cattle, and also hauling grain to town. This was all done on the sleighs in those days.

I worked there through seeding and again in harvest time. Many years later, Mr. Hanson was to become my father-in-law. Our farm was not big enough to give me employment so I worked out most of the time, one summer for Nels Cuboien also one fall for the Lees. I worked several summers on the prairies and in bush camps in the winter time.

Dad's health started failing in 1931, so I came home to help, and finally got farming on my own with my brothers. The winter of 1943 found us in the north logging again which was the year that I lost my freedom. Linnea Hanson and I got married on the last day of that year. A cook was needed at our camp so the trip to the cook shack was our honeymoon.

Our present house, barn and garage were all built from lumber from the logs we cut that winter.

Dad died in the fall of 1947 and mother passed away seven years before. We raised a family of three daughters and one son who are all married now and given us five grand children. Our son is farming with me now and hopefully will take over my farming operations some day.

Linnea Tweidt ( nee Hanson)

I was born on the NE ¼ of Sec 6, Twp 36, Rge.13. My father's homestead shack was a one room house, but it was always clean and comfortable.

My Uncle, Carl Hanson homesteaded the SW¼ of Sec 6, so our two families were very close.

My first years at school were spent at Wolverton School which was only a few miles south of us. Those years were very hard, as we could speak very little English. The later years were spent at Rotnum School. My classmates there were Magna Carlson and Mary Evans. At recess we would all play pump, pump pull away, tag and football. It seemed as though there was very little equipment around to play anything like ball. After I finished school, I stayed home and helped around my father's farm. There were hired men and others around, so there was lots of work if one wanted to do it.

In later years I married Carl Tweidt, a neighbor boy. The first winter we were married, I went to cook for him and some of the neighbor boys in a logging camp north of Love. It was quite an experience to try and cook or bake for a bunch of hungry men, with sugar rationed, no eggs or milk and a lot of things you just could not buy. I was just lost.

We came back to the farm in the spring of that year to the NE Sec. 11, twp.36, rge.13.

We have a family of four, Marie, Mrs. Jack Evans of Clair; Cheryl, Mrs. James Holt of RoseValley; Carolyn , Mrs. Brian Stasiuk of Swift Current and Calvin at Hendon and who we hope, with his wife, Joyce will take over our farm, or part of it when we retire to Wadena and do a little farming from there.

Don Tweidt

I started school in the fall of 1934, Mr. Don Leitch was my first teacher and for the next four years other teachers were: Miss A. Nicholson, one term, Mrs. Howitt, one term, Miss H. Kinsel, two terms, and final year 1943, Miss McCowan grade nine correspondence. Mrs. Allan filled in faithfully as substitute teacher several times over the years. My classmates were: Eric Mack, Norman Schau, Margaret Evenson, Olive Austring, Frances Allan, Ruby Wickstrom.

Others came for a time and left such as the Wallmans and Dunns, perhaps others. On one time I believe our enrollment was 39 give or take. I remember they had to knock out the cloak rooms to put in double desks to squeeze us all in. I remember well the cold winters being hot on one side of the body and able to scratch my initials

in the frost of the wall on the other. Electricity was unheard of except for wind chargers and 6-volt batteries. We were fortunate to have one at our home farmstead and an Alladin Coal oil lamp for homework. We all took turns sweeping floors and carrying cord wood for the old box stove that stood in the middle of the room with its three sides of metal protection. In winter sports were snow ball wars between chosen teams and socker,football played mostly by the boys. After a frest snow, Fox and Geese was popular. Summer was mainly soft ball and we played other schools, Wadena Fields Day was a big day for most of us.

Skiing and Biking, horse back riding were main sources of transportation and sport. Verner Nelson and I on one occasion rode our bikes all the way from our homes to Clair Lake at Clair, Saskatchewan. We even went swimming and thought that was quite an accomplishment for one day.

I remember helping to plant some of the now tall trees still standing at the old school site.

After completing high school at other schools, I worked firstly for the Bank of Nova Scotia. Then for Clifford Rotnem as bookkeeper in Kenora, Ontario. I worked about 12 years as C.P.R. Station Agent in several Saskatchewan towns and Vancouver Island. We came back to Wadena in 1962 and worked as Manager of the Credit Union, secretary of the Wadena Rural Telephones Company which included the Rotnem and Meadow Bank subscribers.

Last May, 1979 we purchased the Drive-In formerly owned by Sigfred Mack who also attended Rotnem School while I was there.

I married Helen Elves of Torch River, Saskatchewan in 1957. We have two daughters, Pamela and Shelley now away from home and one son, Mark at home attending Wadena Composite High School.

Melvin Tweidt

I was six years of age when we came to the Rotnem district in October 1924 and I started school there that same fall. I took most of my schooling there, finishing out of the district.

My teachers, I remember were, Elsie Price, Percy Heffern, Henry Loewen, Enid Campbell, Charlie Spencer and some of my classmates were the Soderquist children, Roy Rotnem, Dorothy Evans, Sylvia Harrison and Lillian Torgerson.

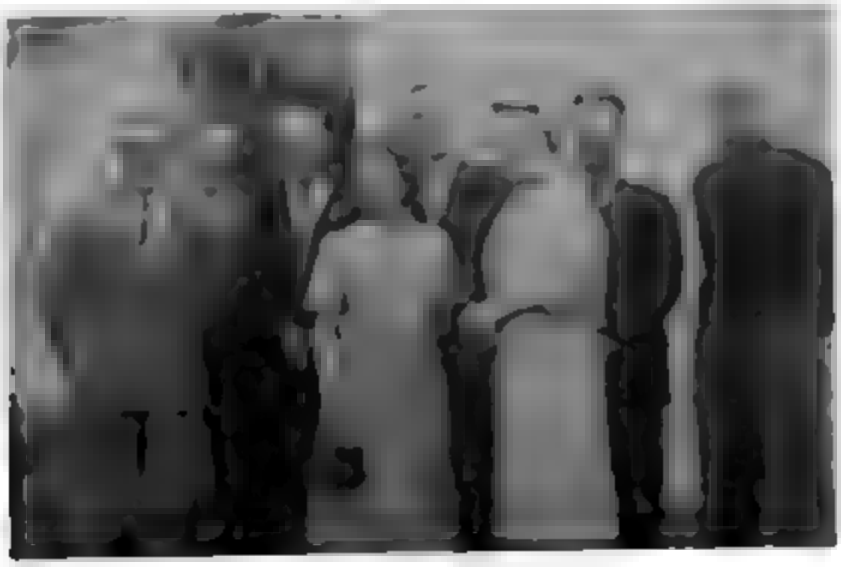
During the year that Charlie Spencer taught we had quite the baseball team. The school board said they were short of funds to buy equipment, so when we needed a new baseball bat, we decided to cut the handle off the wooden pump in the school yard. The only tool for cutting available was the school axe which served the purpose nicely. I'm sure we must have had permission of the teacher!

Needless to say, the board was rather displeased with our actions, but the handle did make a dandy bat. We usually played against Orpington and Victoria Park schools, winning a lot of games.

[illegible] mode of travel then was usually horse and buggy or cutter and [illegible] sleigh.

After leaving school I worked in other areas and also served for a time in the Women's Army Corps (WAC) stationed with the [illegible] Army Air Force. I married Pearl Anderson of [illegible]. [illegible] we lived on the former Joseph Anderson farm, where we raised a family of two girls and three boys.

Three [illegible] children, Ida, Lars and Walter attended [illegible] school. It was decided that Ida and Lorraine had to attend Madena School for all grades.



The Tweidt Family

Judy Tweidt (Kiland)

I was the eldest of five children born to Edwin and Pearl Tweidt. Father had come to Grand Forks from [illegible] as a boy and was raised [illegible]. Mother was born and raised near Hoople and her parents had come from [illegible]. Father's parents were [illegible] from Germany. After their marriage, the [illegible] where Father was able to take [illegible]. [illegible] was at Reserve, [illegible] School. Mrs. Tweidt was [illegible] for several years [illegible].

[illegible] classmates whose names were Ever[illegible], Lowell Tweidt, and I also [illegible] Wright. [illegible] and I would go to [illegible] Mother [illegible] and we never failed to [illegible] all the excitement of the annual Christmas concert.

[illegible] married Edward Kiland who was from the Inkster district. [illegible] and [illegible] Elwood, where Edward worked in the Elwood works.

## Larry Tweidt

I was the eldest son of Melvin and Pearl Tweidt - two sisters Judy and Corinne and two brothers, Malcolm and Lyle completed our family.

I attended Rotnam school from 1959 until its closing in 1963 and took grades 1 to 4. My teachers I seem to recall were, Don Leitch, Lloyd Nelson with Mrs. Herman Allen an occasional substitute. My classmates were Kirk Mack & Debbie Scramstad and later on Kirk Moved to Birch River so Debbie and I were classmates through public school to graduation.

I live in Edson, Alberta where I work as a machinist Millwright.

Submitted by Selmer Tweidt.

I was the sixth child of the Martin Tweidt's family, and born at Plaza North Dakota in March 1922. Two years later our family immigrated to Canada.

As I was less than three years old, I have very little memory of the trip to Canada, but I do recall arriving at our new home east of Hendon. And all of us children running excitedly to see our new home. The memory of how excited everyone was remains with me to this day.

We had travelled in a 1917 Model T touring Ford car which by today's standards, wasn't built for great speed. I have been told by my older brothers and sisters how I took great enjoyment on the long trip riding astraddle of the side door on the old touring car. I believe it took us four days more or less, to make this trip. I have travelled this same distance in later years in a matter of one short day, but paved roads and modern cars are now a big factor.

In 1928 I started to Rotnum School and my teachers as I recall were Miss Burnett, Charlie Spencer, Miss Bryant, Mii Dalshaug and Don Leitch. My classmates were Glen Ostlie, Hans Peterson, Sam Evans, Ethel Schau and Martha Nelson.

I also recall some interesting activities in our school days, one in particular. At noon hour the teacher would allow us to leave the school yard and we rushed off to a big bluff of trees, located on my Dad's farm near the school and also another bluff located on Otto Schau's farm. Here we had built large tents constructed of poles and sod. From these points we set out to hunt bush rabbits armed with sling shots and bows and arrows. In those years the bush rabbits seemed plentiful. I sometimes wonder if kids today, with much more colorful and perhaps very costly games and play equipment, enjoy themselves near as much as we enjoyed our rabbit hunts.

These were the depression years which were now upon us, often referred to as the "dirty thirties", so I stayed home and helped with the farm work. In 1940 I ventured out on my own to look for work. I travelled east to Ontario, finding work was hard to come by, but managed to obtain work at Port Authur on a Pool terminal which was still under construction.

Some months later I returned home, and in the fall of I941 when the U.S.A. joined with Canada, who was already at war, my brother Ben and I went back to the States, where we enlisted in the Armed Forces. As it turned out, I was sent to Seattle Wash. where I trained and worked in an aircraft plant.

In I945, I returned to Hendon, where I took up farming. Brothers Melvin and I bought the Joseph Hanson farm and on July 25th, I953, I married Noreen Mack of the Rotnum district.

In I954, with our wee son, we moved to the U.S.A. where we spent the next four years. On returning to Sask. we purchased a farm that was my wifes folks, and have since made our home here and raised a family of four sons, Darrell, Richard, Darwood and Robert.

Darrell and Richard are now married, the former living in Saskatoon where he and I own a well drill outfit, and Ricky makes his home near Hendon and works with an oil company in B.C. Darwood is manager of a Co-Op Lumber in Naicam and Robert attends Wadena High School.

Our two daughter-in-laws are from this area, and Darrell's wife Lyla comes from Quill Lake and Ricky's wife comes from the Hendon area. We have one grandson, Ty Daniel.

Submitted by Richard Tweidt.

I attended Rotnum School for only one year, starting in the fall of I962 until it's closing in June of I963. At that time we were all based to Wadena for our schooling.

I can still remember some of the activities at recesses and noon hours, the most daring stunt being the initiation to the gang. One must first climb the old coal bin and then with great exertion , plunge, leaping across to the barn roof without falling to the ground. Thank goodness I had a sturdy pair of wide crotched pants!

We all tried our hand at playing hockey, one day when the school bell rang, there were none of us boys to be found. It didn't take the teacher long to locate us though. We all felt we had a valid reason and we presumed our teacher Lloyd Nelson was very understanding. We were too far away from the schoolhouse on our patch of ice to hear the bell and no one had a watch.

When the first wet snow of winter and then again in the spring some of the older boys would have a little game of Snow Ball, Firing Squad. This, I soon found was not my best game. As it was explained to me, the object was to throw a snowball at the person against the wall and try to hit them. Well I always used to score a hit, so in hitting a score it became that persons turn to stand at the barn wall. I seemed to end up standing against the wall, while snowballs hit the wall above me. After a few noon hours of this, I soon caught on to it and then the interest for them died out.

Many fine memories remain of Christmas concerts, Ball tournaments, meetings and Bingo's even though I was not always a part of them. The

memories of these get togethers will linger in my mind as part of my growing years.

My wife and I are once again in the Hendon area after living in Melville, Jedburgh and Ituna, where I bought grain. Then later Saskatoon, but it's nice to have returned to our childhood area. Bev. is also a Hendon girl, daughter of Norman and Elsie Harvey. We have a little son, Ty Daniel, who has red hair, I'm sure that he will carry on the families trade mark of red hair.

I am presently working in the oil industry in B.C. but my time off is spent in the Hendon and Meadow Bank area.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wallman.

Submitted by Lydia Copithke (Wallman).

Being among the early pioneers we lived a very simple life and were very poor. They told me that the house I was born in had a mud floor. We climbed upstairs by a ladder and slept on a straw mattress on the floor.

There was no school or Church, just a Post Office and grocery store.

Grandfather Wallman, on my father's side, raised cattle. The family was kept busy working hard down on the old farm. There were two sons, Jacob and Joseph, and six daughters, Susan, Sarah, Barbara, Annie, Emma and Edith.

Now Grandpa Wallman helped organize the Kelvingside School as we lived south-west of Kelvington.

I had four brothers; Edward, Albert, Sam and Jim. I am the eldest.

My mother's name was Mary Wallman from Dominion City, Man. My mother came to help on the farm. My dad knew my mother only one week. He took her out once and told her, "I like you, do you like me"? Dad's father being a minister married them. Quite an interesting romance, wasn't it? They got along very well, Mother passed away in 1919. I was ten years old at the time.

Dad married my mother's sister. Five boys were added to that union, Alfred, Harvey, Alex, Lloyd and Arthur. We got along somehow, it was rough, my wardrobe consisted of a skirt and blouse which I washed every saturday so that it was clean for Sunday church.

We rode on horse back to school, fell off dozens of times, but the good guardian angel watched over us.

If someone had an ear ache, Dad blew hot smoke from his pipe into that ear. Once one of the boys pulled another out from under the bed, he got a big sliver (those floors were not painted)

Dad took his pocket knife to perform an operation while the boys held the patient.

At night we'd sit around the table by a kerosene light. When the door was opened and the light blew out, all we needed was an other match. We lived in one room. Those were rather close quarters. We never had a lock on our door. No one ever stole anything. No one would want anything we had anyway, so we didn't live in fear like many do today.

I was very unhappy, so I prayed. Grandma did too, that I could leave home. God answered my prayer, one day Reverend and Mrs. Hofer came from Chicago and held evangelic meetings in Grandma's house. I went with them. I had never seen them before. That was the happiest day of my life.

That was in I927, and I have made Chicago my home ever since.

## The Joe Wallman Family.

Joe Wallman was born at Freeman, South Dakota to Rev. and Mrs. Wallman. He came with his parents, brothers and sisters to Gorlitz, Sask. in I89I where they took up ranching.

In I903 they drove from Gorlitz to Kelvington in wagons. He married Mary Wallman in I907 and to that union were five children Lydia, Ed, Albert, Sam and James. The family home was on the S½ 32-36-I2.

Mrs. Wallman passed away in I9I8. Joe then married Mary's sister Maggie in I920. To this second marriage five sons were born, Alfred, Harvey, Art, Alex and Lloyd.

Maggie Wallman passed away in I942. Joe retired in I947 and passed away in I963.

Of the first family, two sons had predeceased their father, Ed in I953 and Sam in I965. Ed had worked for Willard Hall for many years and will be remembered for his singing at functions in Meadow Bank Hall, where one of his favorite songs sung was "I'm a Great Big Swede From North Dakota".

Sam passed away in I965. He and his brother Albert had worked at various places in the district and later owned and operated a caterpiller tractor, doing bulldosing and scrub cutting. The two had bought a farm consisting of a section of land, but after Sam's death Albert sold out and moved into Wadena. Later he moved to Lintlaw and presently plans a move to Quill Lake.

James is married and lives in Port Alberni B.C. Lydia, Mrs. Copithke lives in Chicago.

Alf and Harvey were in the second World War from I94I to I946 in the Army Division and both served overseas.

Alf is now married to Violet Colby (Wickstrom) and still farms but lives in Wadena.

Harvey is married, has three children and lives in Regina were he works for Sask. Power.

Alex is married and lives in Neepawa where he works as a carpenter.

Art lives in Swift Current and is a Radio Announcer for C.K.S.W. He spent a great deal of his youth in and out of hospital, so a lot of his schooling was taken while a patient in Regina hospital. He has made a great name for himself in the field of radio announcing, in spite of his handicap.

Art often talks, while on the air, of his home place known as "Moccassin Flats" and of going out every fall after threshing and filling up his mattress with new fresh straw and how they would have to climb up on it the first few nights to get it into shape. He also recalls and mentions the warmth of the old feather tick on the beds.

Lloyd is married to a former Fosston girl, has a family of five and lives in Surrey B.C. where he works as a plumber.

It was in 1937 that a fire destroyed the Wallman home and while they were rebuilding, the boys, Harvey, Lloyd and Alex stayed at the W. Harrison's home and attended Rotnum School.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Weaver.

Submitted by Dorothy E Kempka.

My father Arthur Weaver and my mother Gwendoline Irene Weaver, my brother Leslie Frank, and I arrived from England in 1924, and lived with my grandfather and grandmother Mr. and Mrs. Richard Messenger, my mothers parents, on their farm at Meadow Bank, until we located in Wadena, Sask. My father then resumed his profession of music teacher and organized the Wadena Band.

Approximately six years later we moved back to Meadow Bank. My great aunt and uncle Mr. And Mrs. Fred Jones of that district, owned two farms, so we resided on the one. My father still taught music, tuned pianos and organized the Dynamite Five Orchestra. He played the piano, Clarence Masecar, (a former member of the Wadena band) played the cornet, Horace Newman (formerly of England) played the drums, Thurlow Gowan played the banjo and his two cousins Leighton and Curtis Gowan played the violin. The Dynamite Five Orchestra played for the dances at Meadow Bank Hall and my uncle Herbert Messenger was the Square Dance Caller. We would dance from nine at night until three in the morning.

I attended Duck Creek School. It was a nice one room school house with a big wood heater to keep us warm in the winter. Mona McKay was one of our school teachers, she was a wonderful warm

When she left we were fortunate to have another nice teacher, Eva Harrison. My schoolmates were, Muriel and Kenneth Donald, Harry Linden, Cora Lindsey, Percy and Thelma Gowan.

After a few years at Meadow Bank we moved to Kelvington, Sask. where my mother and brother with his family still reside.

The nationality of our family is English. While we resided in England, my father was in the music profession. He was also in the Signal Core in world war one, and badly wounded. When world war two started he went to Camp Dundern, where he worked in communications, until the war was over. Later he became Postmaster for the Kelvington Post Office and was Postmaster until he passed away.

## Whitehead.

Lorne Whitehead;

Lorne was the oldest child of Agnes and Harry Whitehead who farmed in the Rotnum district. He took his first year of schooling at Rotnum with Wilf Harcourt as his teacher. By a strange twist of fate, Wilf was also his last teacher (principal) when he finished high school in Kelvington.

Harry recalls what a time they had getting him to school when it rained, the road by the farm was in a direct line south to the school, but only a dirt road with no gravel and on wet days you might as well forget those two and one half miles. You just had to detour about twice that far to make the school.

Lorne was a very shy little fellow and shed a few tears that first day, but he found a little playmate whom he knew before coming to school, so he and Leslie Scramstad shared a desk, until he got used to his new surroundings and the other children.

Lorne married Eunice Raddons of Abbotsford B.C. and they have three children. They farm land in both Rotnum and Orpington district and live on his parents (formerly grandparents) home place.

## Wickstrom.

Submitted by Birdie.(Wickstrom) Neilson.

I originally came from the Willow Glen area, when I lived with Axel and Hilda Carlson for one year and attended Rotnum School. My older sister Ruby, now Mrs. Johnson of Rose Valley lived at Axel Carlsons for a number of years before I came, she left shortly after I came in the fall of 1941.

I don't remember the teachers name, she was a very nice person. Once while the school class was out to play ball, as I was back catching, I got hit with the bat on the bone of my eye brow. The scar is still there. It's funny to me now when I think of how hard I cried more over the bleeding than the hurting, and then the teacher cleaned it up and put a bandage on it..

I have always remembered the children, I thought were so nice and especially remember mixing with Jessie Winarski.I also often talk about when Mrs. Carlson hesitated to help me with my homework, finally when she would tell me the reading word or spelling, she would tell it to me in Swede (which we spoke at all times). Then at school we would take turns going up and stand along side the teacher's desk, facing the class to read and when it was my turn to read I'd go up there and read the words in Swede as they were told to me by Mrs. Carlson. We often speak of this and wonder how many people in the school might remember this. As I read the words in Swede the teacher would look to the side and smile and the class would look up and smile, but both teacher and class smiled in a nice fun way.

On our way home from school Jean Evenson and I took so long in coming home that her mother and Mrs. Carlson would phone one another and be looking and waiting for us as we played on the road home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wickwire.

The Wickwire family with their four sons, Harold, Lloyd, Neil and Kenneth came from southern Saskatchewan and they rented land from Mr. Carl Peters.

Later they came to live on the S.E.¼ 24- 36- I3. The land now farmed by Lorne Whitehead. While the boys were too old to attend Rotnum School, they were a great addition to the social life of the district.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winarski.

Joe and Tina Winarski had come to Canada from Poland and came to live in the Rotnum district when they purchased the N.W.¼ I3- 36- I3.

They had a family of four children, two boys and two girls all of whom attended Rotnum school.

The oldest boy Stanley went to Ontario and worked for Brantford Twine Co. Jessie lives in Alberta and Teddy was also in Alberta. Working in Conservation. The youngest of the family, Caroline trained as a Psychiatric nurse in Moose Jaw where she married Ted Torgenrud. and they make their home there.

Joe sold this quarter of land in I945 to Sig Scramstad and moved to the Harrow district west of Hendon. A few years later they sold that farm and bought a house in Wadena where they now enjoy retirement.

## Mr. and Mrs. James Wright.

Submitted by Shirley Elliott (Wright).

James Wright, soldier and farmer, was born in Manitoba in 1893. Following service in the First World War he arrived in the Meadow Bank area in 1923 and took up a homestead. The virgin farmland was located on the S.½ 11- 36- 12. No power or telephone lines have ever graced the rolling fields, which were cleared and broken with horses, crude implements and much hard work.

In Dec. 1925 he married the former Elizabeth Hope, who was born at Marchwell, N.W.T. in 1905. In 1927 Shirley was born at the Red Cross Nursing Hospital in Kelvington. Frances arrived in 1928 and Jamie in 1930, the latter two being born in the Wadena Union Hospital.

The young family entered into the spirit of the community. Many Sunday's saw Jimmie with scissors and hair clippers in hand doing the barbering for the bachelor neighbours of the area, who usually stayed to enjoy a hearty home-cooked meal prepared on the wood stove.

Each season had its special joys for the Wright family- they all loved the outdoors, and during the year watched hopefully for the arrival of newborn calves, piglets, horses, chickens, turkeys and the downey goaslings. A large garden was planted, and unless 100 quarts of Saskatoons and rhubarb was canned every year, the family would starve! Threshing time was always an exciting season, one year four young men arrived from Ontario, and that was one of the best harvests, since they took up all the potatoes and garden stuff while waiting for the sun to shine.

School days will never be forgotten, nor will church and sunday school, which was held in the Meadow Bank hall. Who in the neighborhood could forget the Christmas Concerts, the numerous times when the chicken pox or measles invaded the halls of learning prior to concert night! Remember the year when a girls drill was a must, but how, with only five girls in school. Whether it was the persuasion of the teacher, or threats from the girls, Dennis came to the rescue and dressed in a white dress, silk stockings, his sister's oxfords, and with a little make-up and a ribbon in his hair, was accorded three cheers from the audience when the drill was over. Those were the days, when a short hair cut was made to look faminine with a ribbon or tiny flower.

A highlight of the winter was the plays that were staged in Meadow Bank by the young actors and actresses of the community, and Mrs. Wright was called upon to be the stage director. Following several weeks of practice at Duck Creek School and then at the hall, the great night came' What a night it was- and sometimes followed by a dance. Suppose the proceeds were used for the community, the writer was not old enough to worry about such things.

The winters were long and tiresome and with a long school holiday, many card parties were held in the various homes within the confines of the school district. And housewarming parties, the house bulging with well-wishers, and the barn full of horses patiently waiting to start the long trek home in the wee hours of the morning, and especially in an open sleigh or cutter. The kids would

cuddle under the covers and watch the Northern Lights dancing in the sky, could almost hear them whispering and crackling in the cold stillness of a winter night.

Grades one to eight were taught in school, and after that, it was a correspondence course or high school in town. Shirley and Frances attended school while taking grades nine and ten by correpondence, and then the excitement of planning to go to town and to take grade eleven. To find room and board was rather a large problem and it was finally solved with the renting of one room to share and board with Mrs. Mackenzie for $15.00 per month each and all the food that could be brought in from the farm. These arrangements lasted about two months, the farm was rented, an auction sale held, and the family moved to town. After following many leads and tracking down landlords, the family moved into an unmodern house owned by the local dairyman, on the outskirts of town.

The following two years were very busy, with school and part-time jobs, the kids soon settled into a routine. Jimmie was offered many carpenter jobs and he soon worked twelve months a year at a hobby he thoroughly enjoyed. Not to be outdone by his family, Mrs. Wright became a telephone operator, a position she held for eight years. She also took a writer's course and worked as a news reporter for the Kelvington Radio, Regina Leader Post, Saskatoon Star- Phoenix and C.K.B.I. radio station. After graduation, Shirley became a teller in the Bank of Commerce, Frances worked at the local creamery and Jamie worked at the Galaxy Theatre, and became a very good projectionist. He later moved to Edmonton and worked as a painter, obtaining his journeyman papers, and eventually took an electrical course, worked on the Dew line and is presently working in Illinois, U.S.A.

Mrs. Wright passed away in Jan. 1968 following a lengthy illness, and Mr. Wright passed away in Dec. 1973.

Frances married Harold Pearson and lives at Hudson Bay,Sask. Shirley is the only family member living here and is married to Milton Elliott.

## The Dick Yeo Family.

Submitted by May Whithead (Yeo).

My Mother and Father, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Yeo came to Canada from Devonshire England in 1903. I was then eight years old and we made our home in the Wallan district of the Yorkton area, where Dad worked for a Mr. Hall and I attended Wallan School.

In the summer of 1906, Dad decided to move the family to the homestead in the Wadena area, driving across country from Rhein to Sheho with horses and a covered wagon and trailing the cattle. We completed the journey to live on our homestead, the N.E.¼ 26- 36- 13.

My folks had the Orpington Post Office in their home for some years, the name Orpington being chosen because of the Orpington chickens that Dad raised. The Louis Weeklunds later took over this service. Mother and Dad adopted my brother Louis as a young lad,

after we had settled on the homestead. Dad served as councillor of the Local Improvement District before the Lakeview Municipality was formed. In later years, he served a term as Deputy- Reeve of the Municipality.

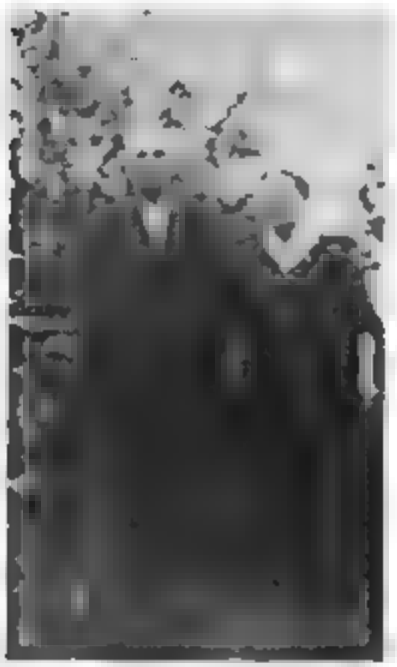
Meadow Bank hall was then the centre of all social life, as well as all church services, so my folks were a part of all the social activities in the hall in those early homestead years.

Dad loved to sing and was always in demand at these gatherings, some of his favorite ballads being "Grandfathers Clock" and " O Prairie Land". Mother and Dad told us of the night they had been attending a gathering at the hall, when a fierce thunder storm came up. They hurried to get the team out of the barn and get on their way home,when the winds began to blow with great gusts. A few minutes after getting set to drive off, a great gust came demolishing the barn and driving 2 by 4's into the ground. Carl Peters who had been leaving at the same time, managed to grab a post in the ground and hang on until things settled a bit. Brother Louis had been at home in bed when the winds rose and a great gust blew his bedroom window in, showering his bed with glass.

Tom Whitehead had come from England in 1911 and we met and married at my folks home in Feb. 23rd,1914. When we moved to our own place and built our first house, Doris Harmon (Prouse) looked after our baby son Harry.

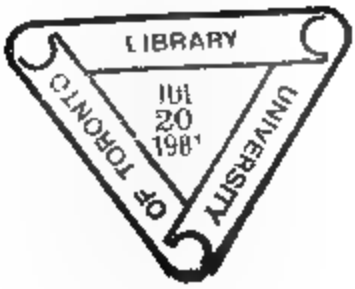
Mother and Dad had been among the guests at the wedding of her (Doris's) mother Jeannie to Ed Harmon in 1907.

Mother passed away in Jan. on 1936 after a short illness, and Tom and I cared for Dad in our home until his death in 1940.



Above. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson, Ruby Johnson.

Right. Grandma and Grandpa Monson.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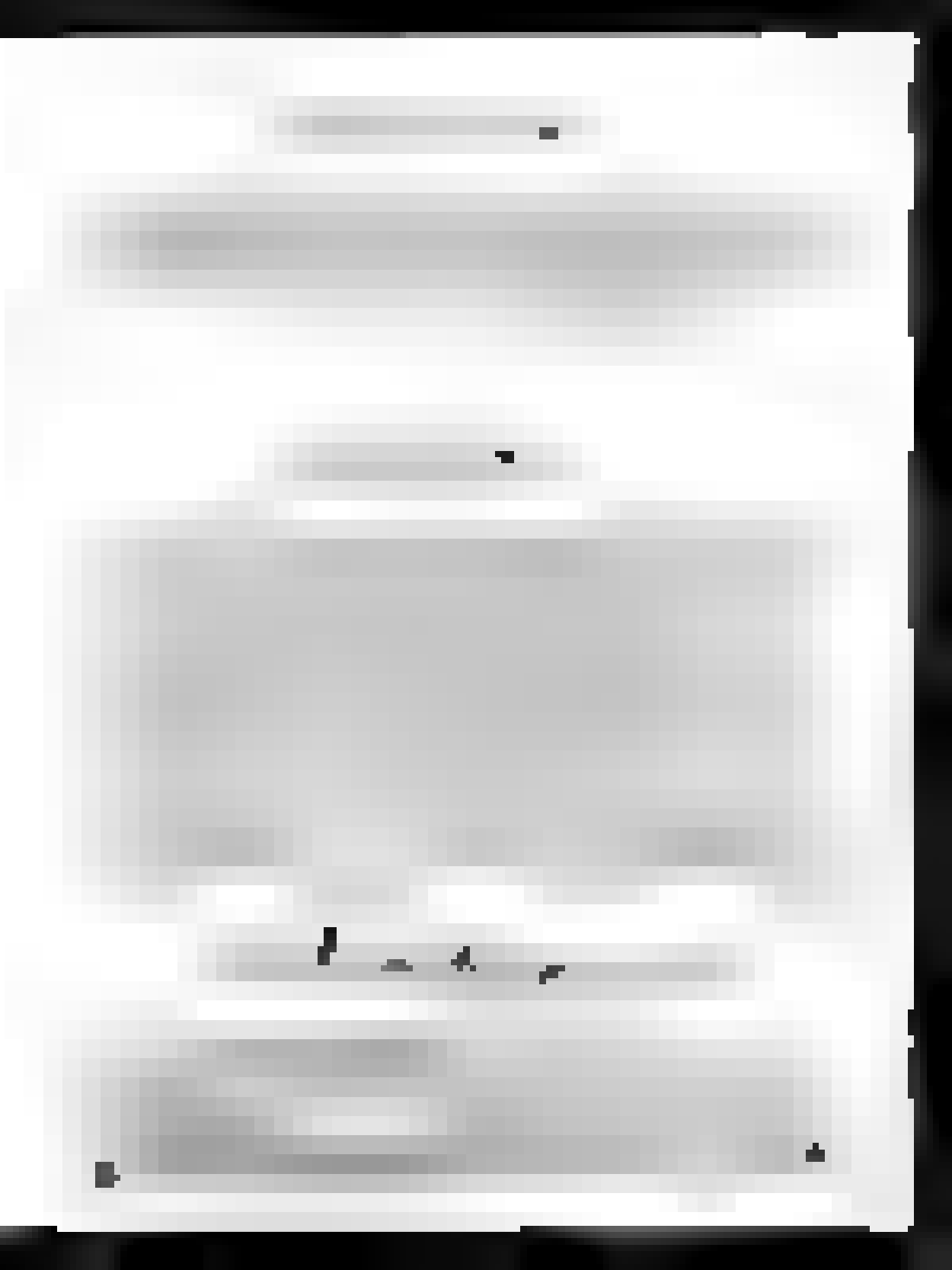

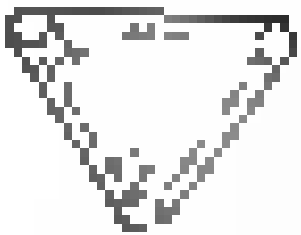

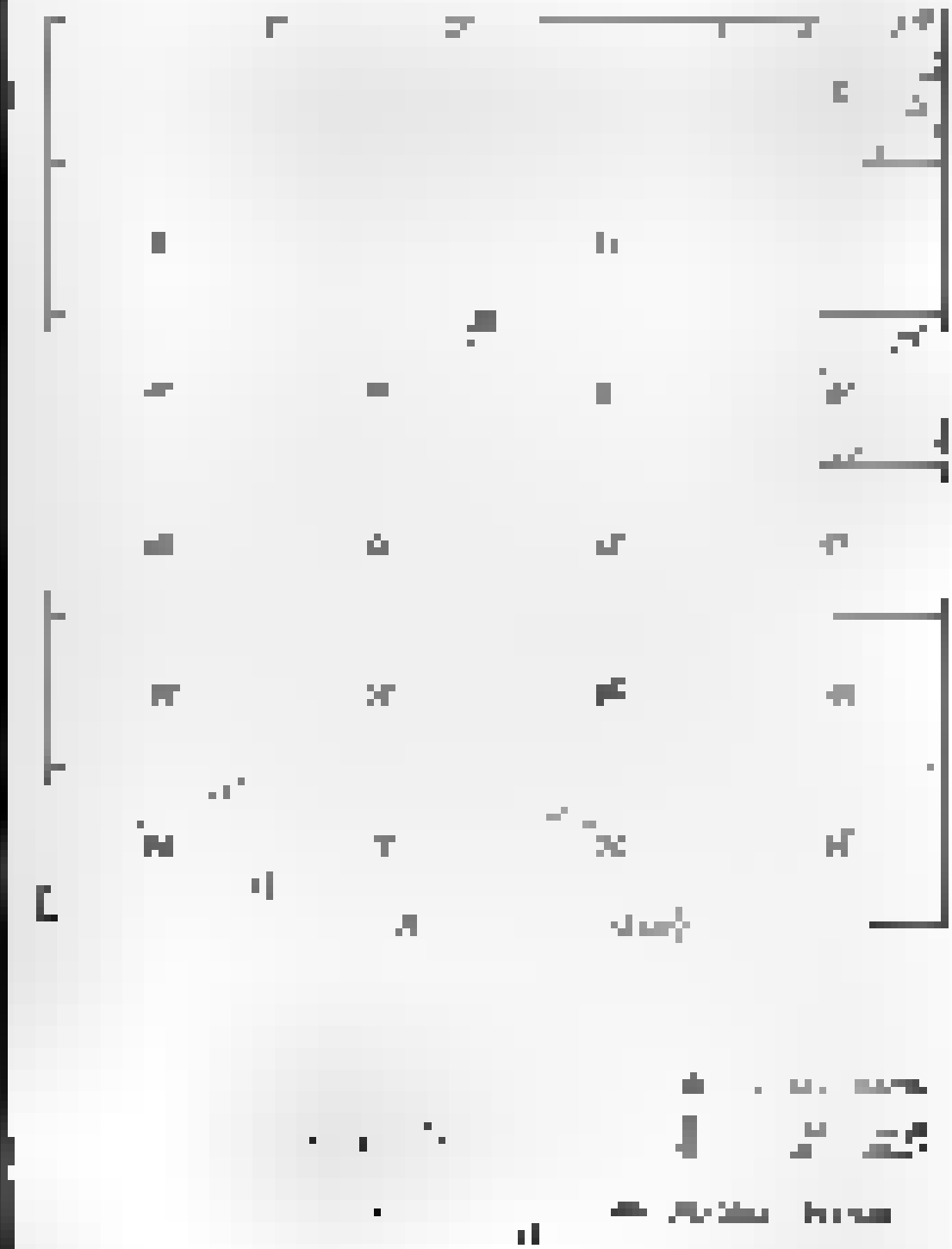

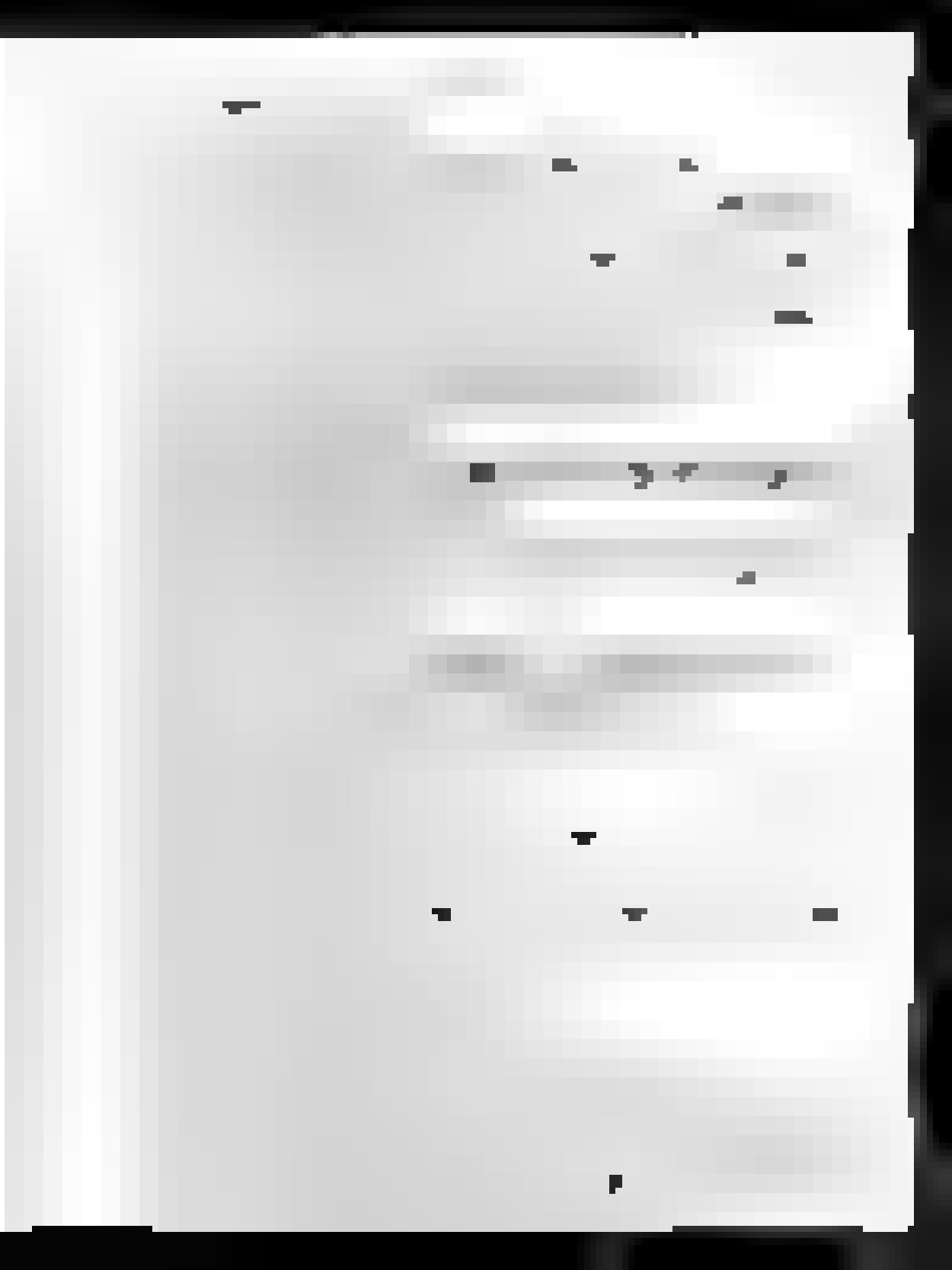

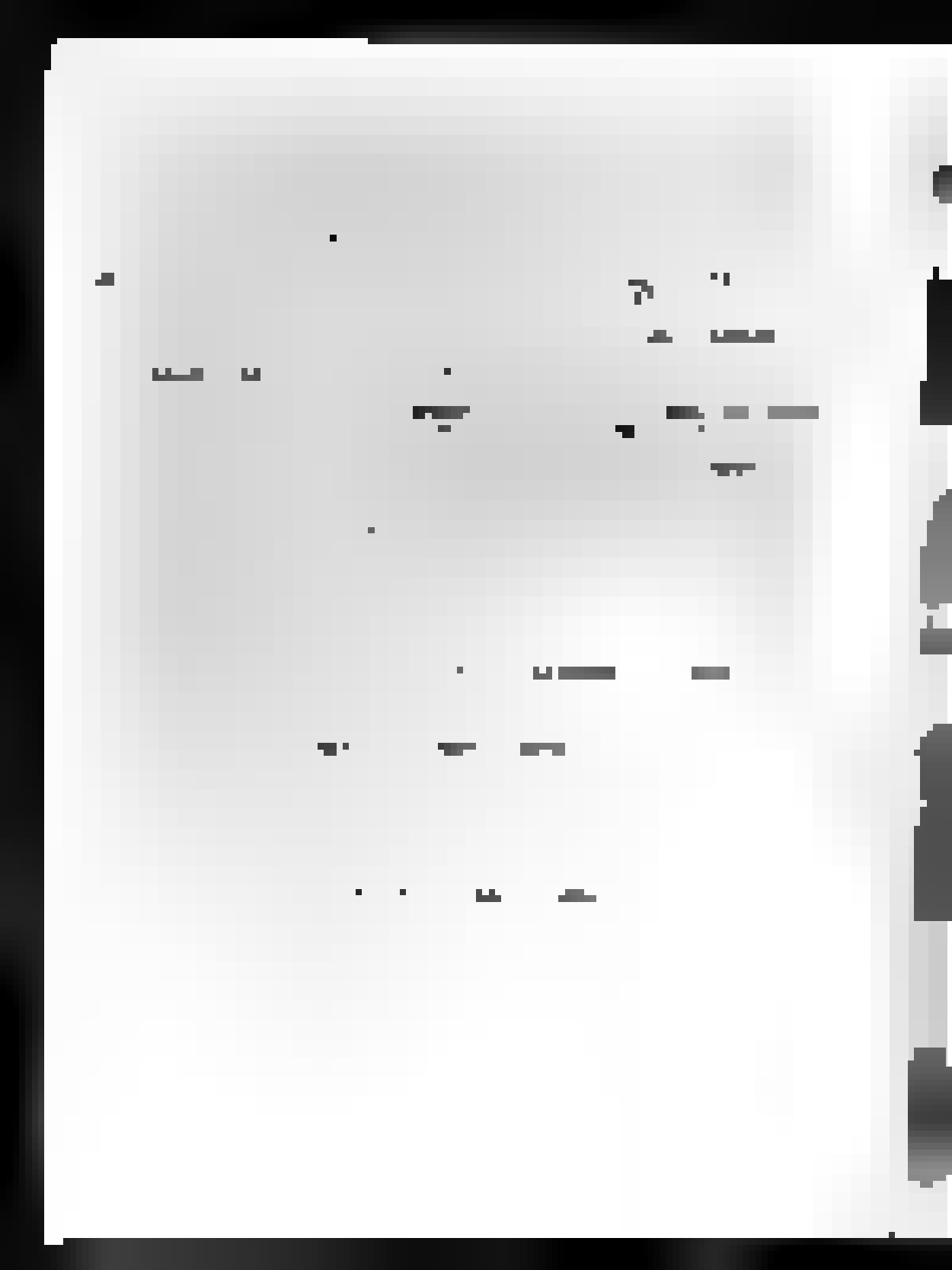

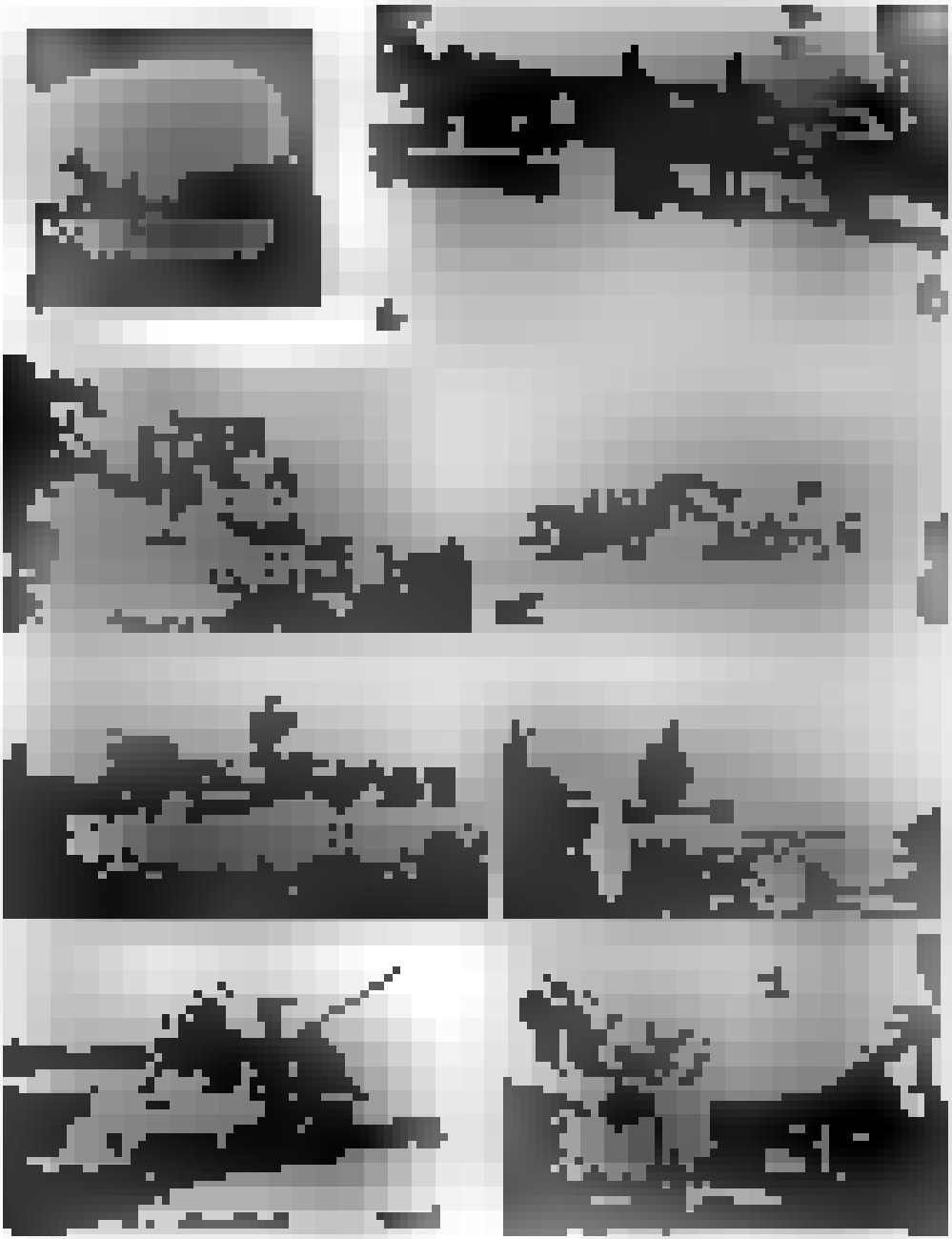

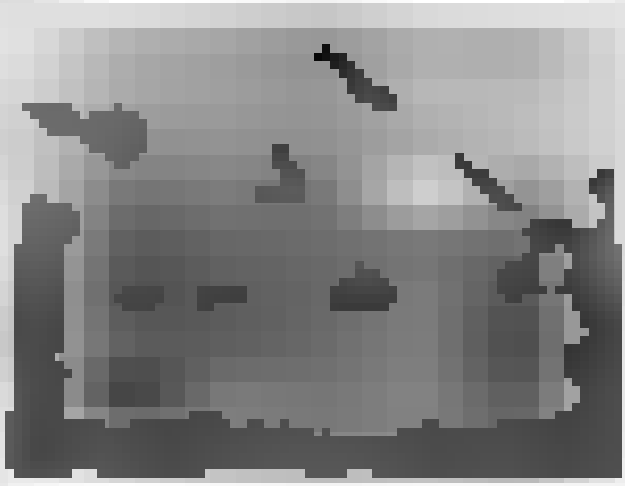

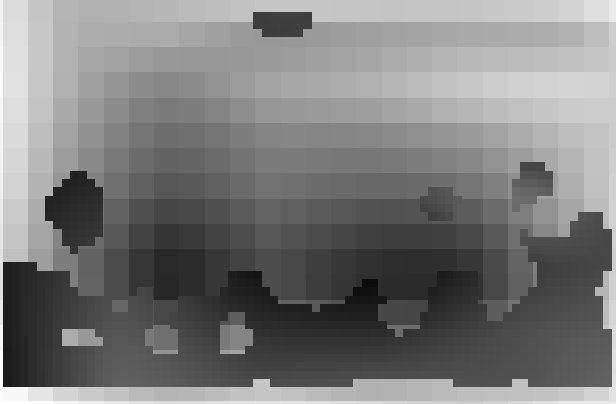

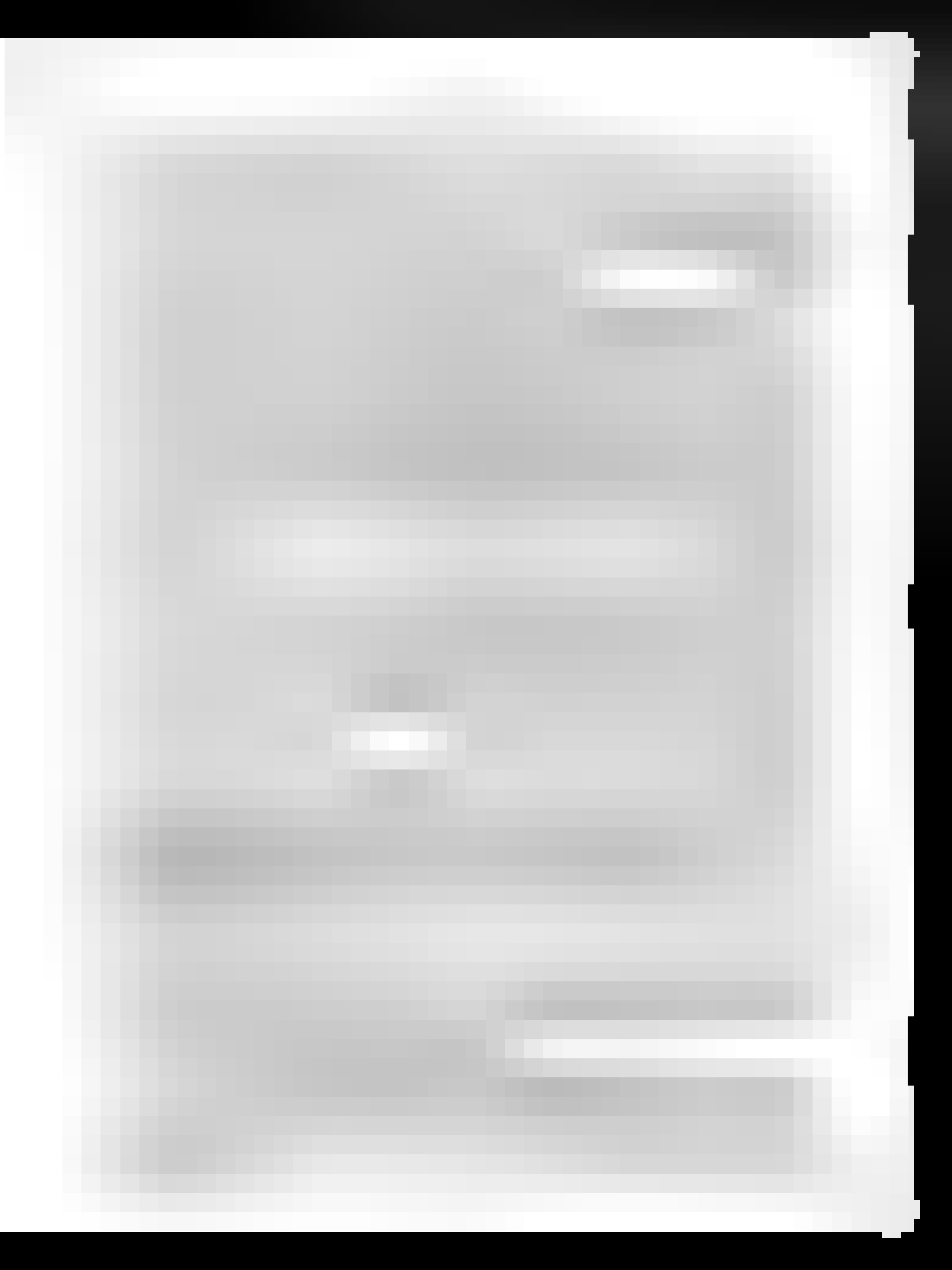

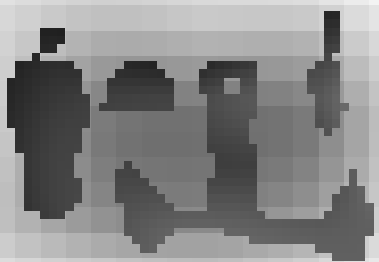

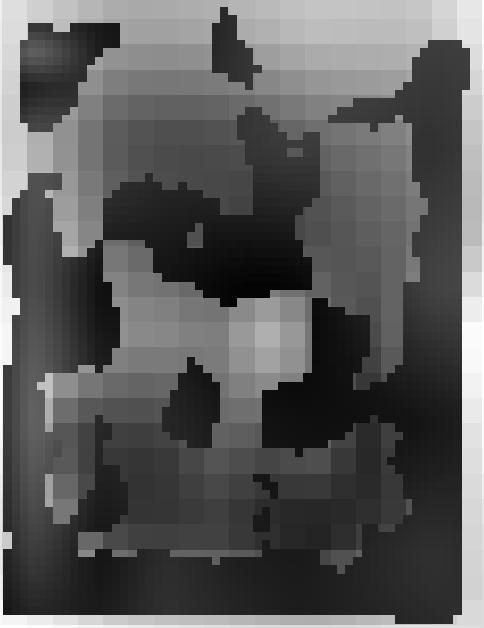

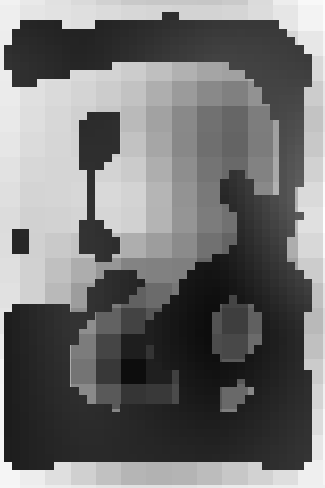

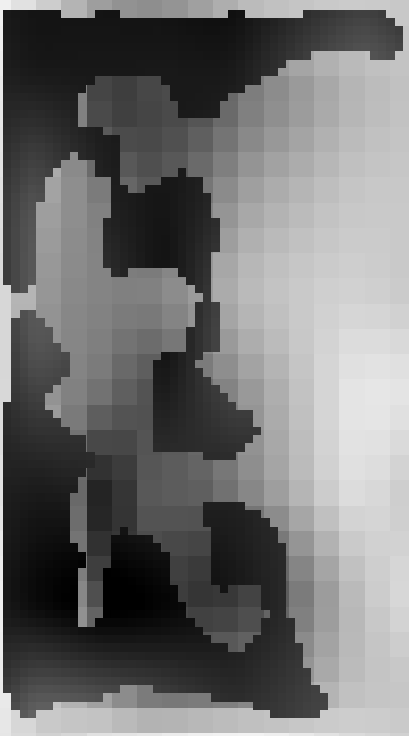

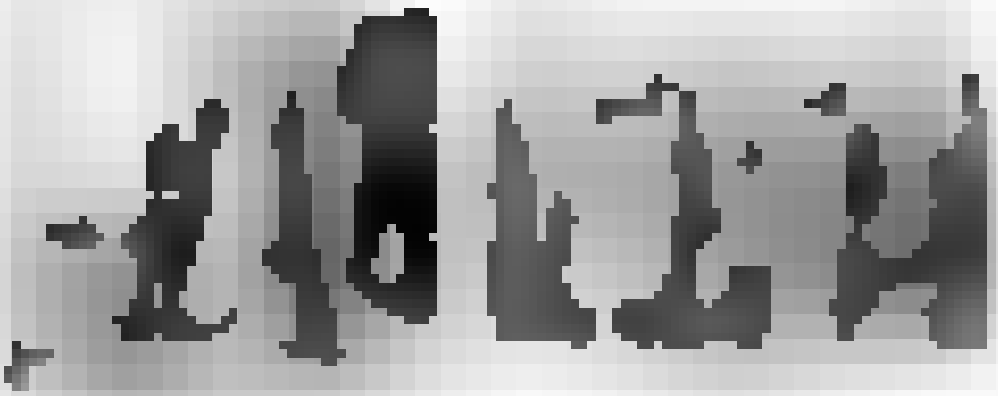

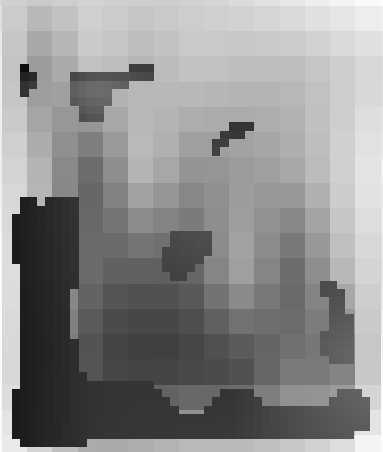

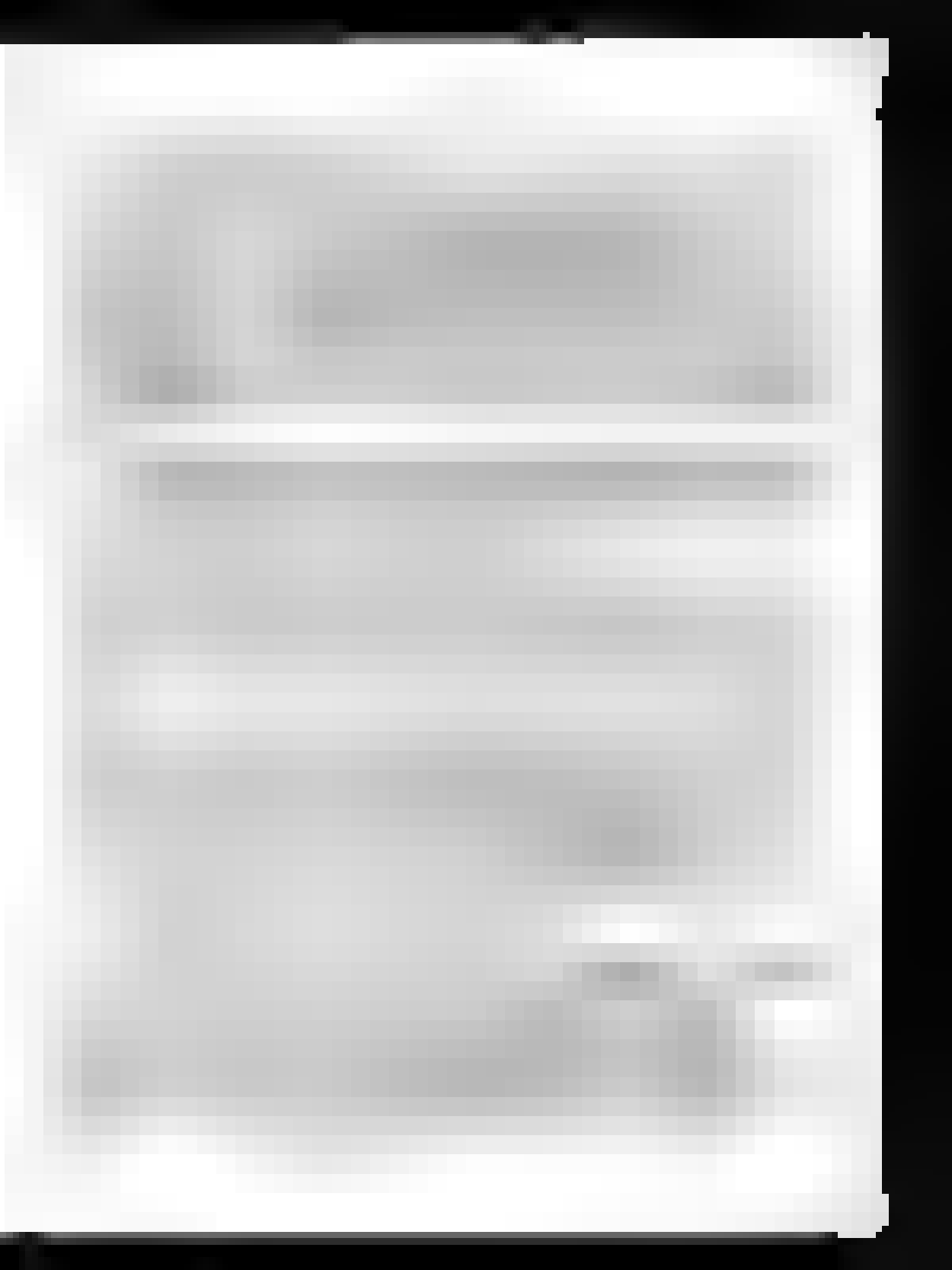

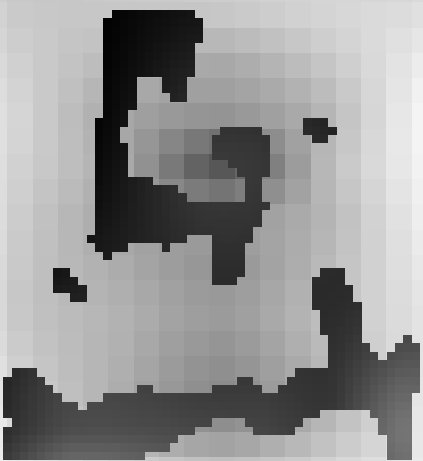

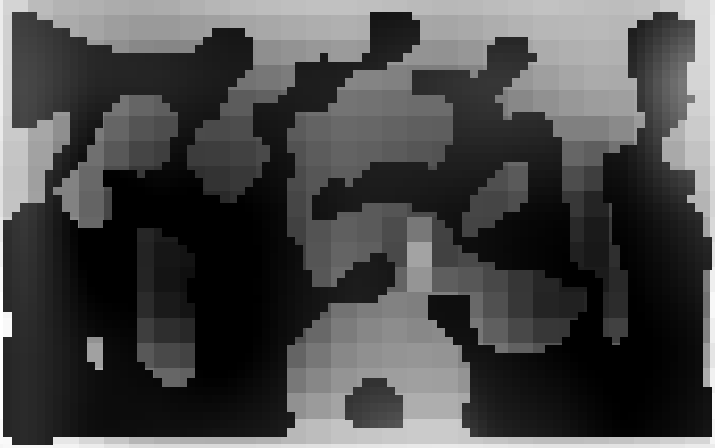

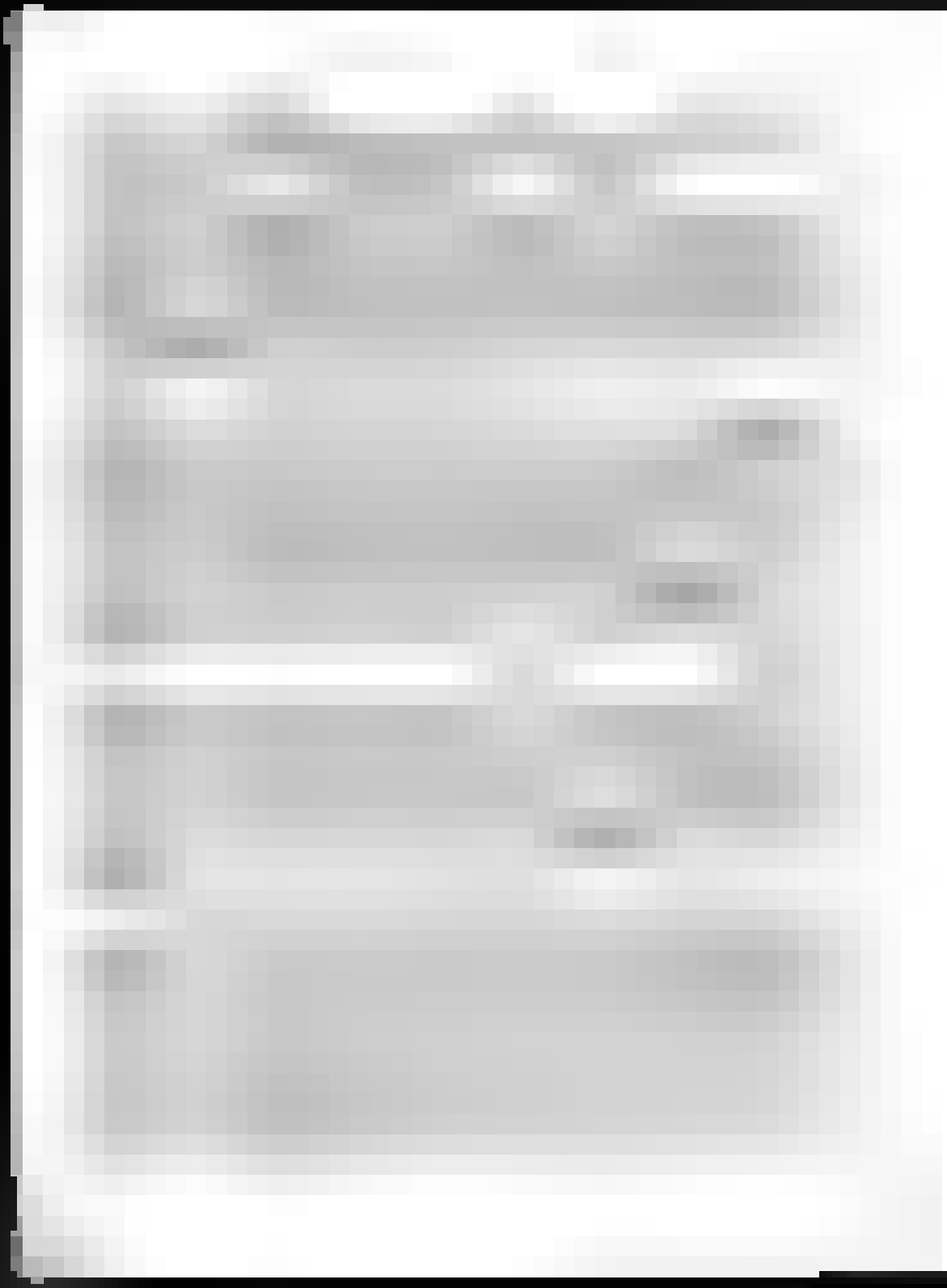

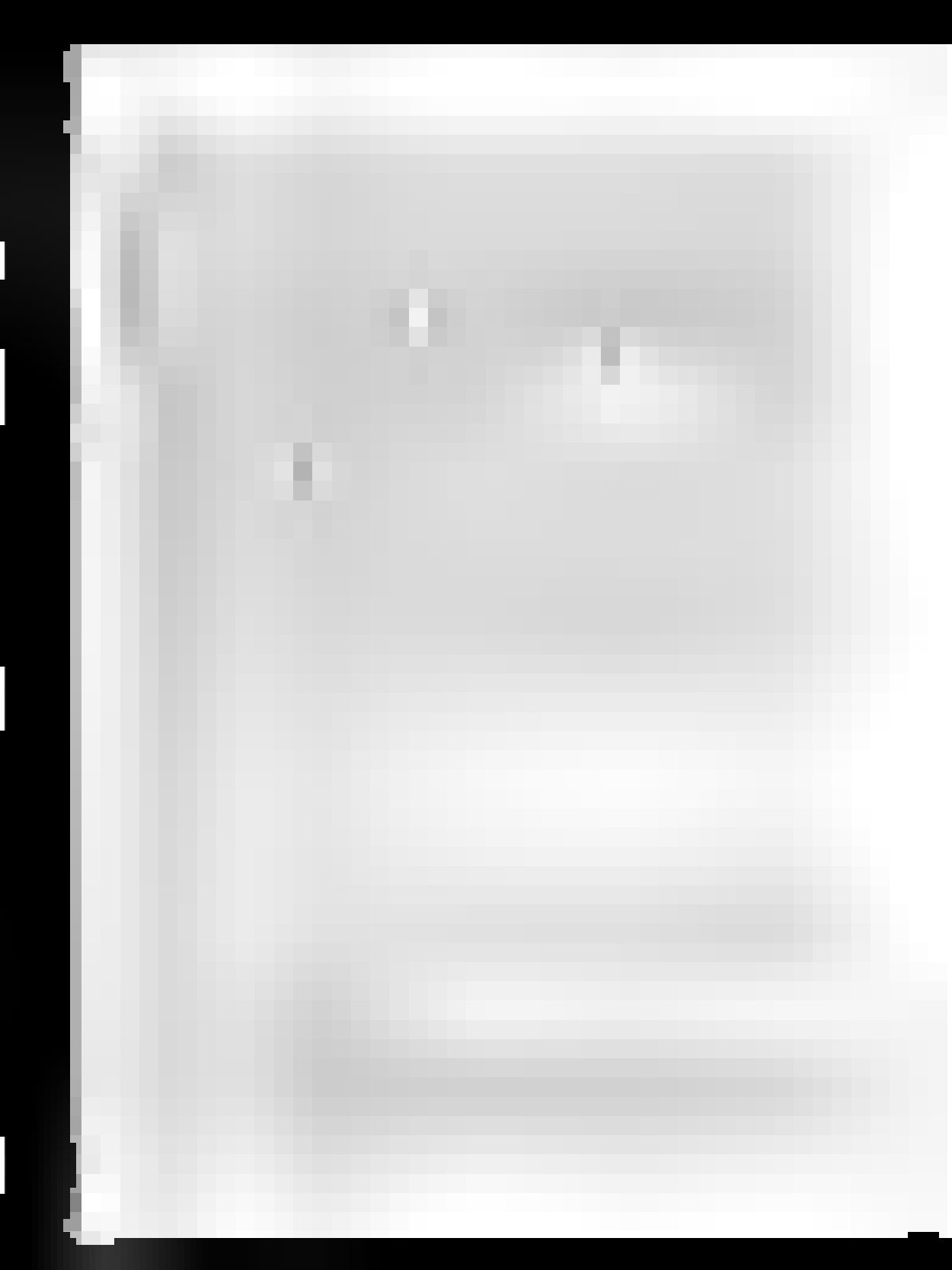

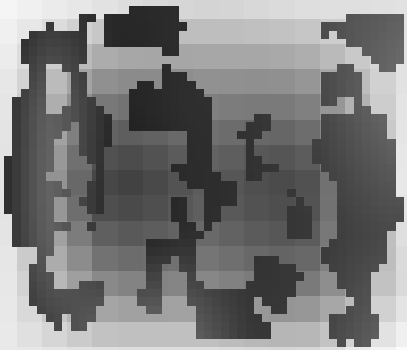

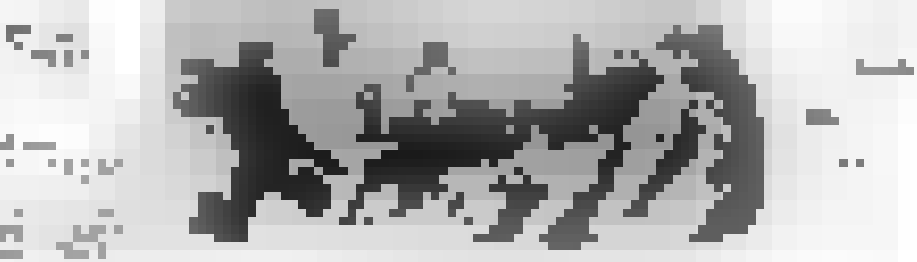

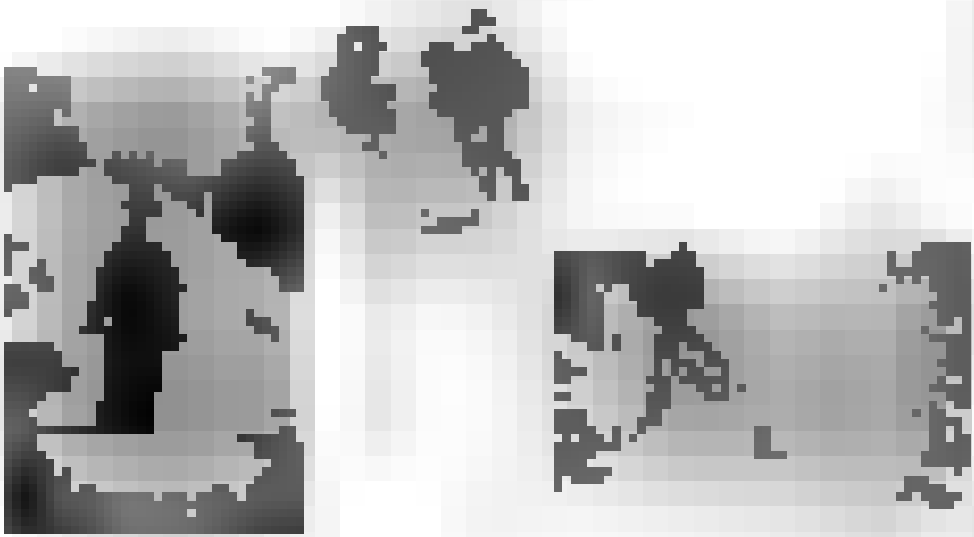

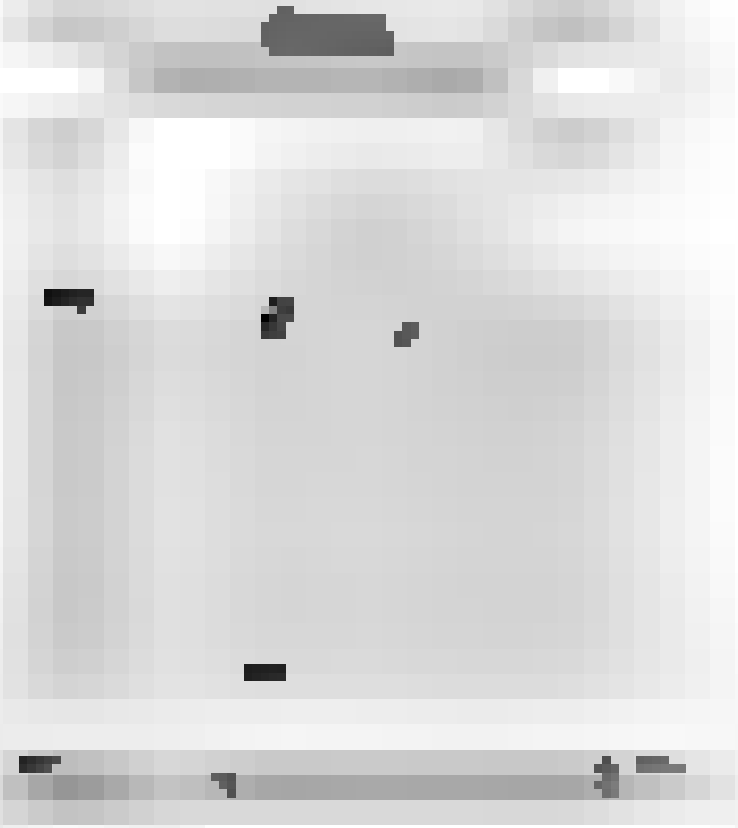

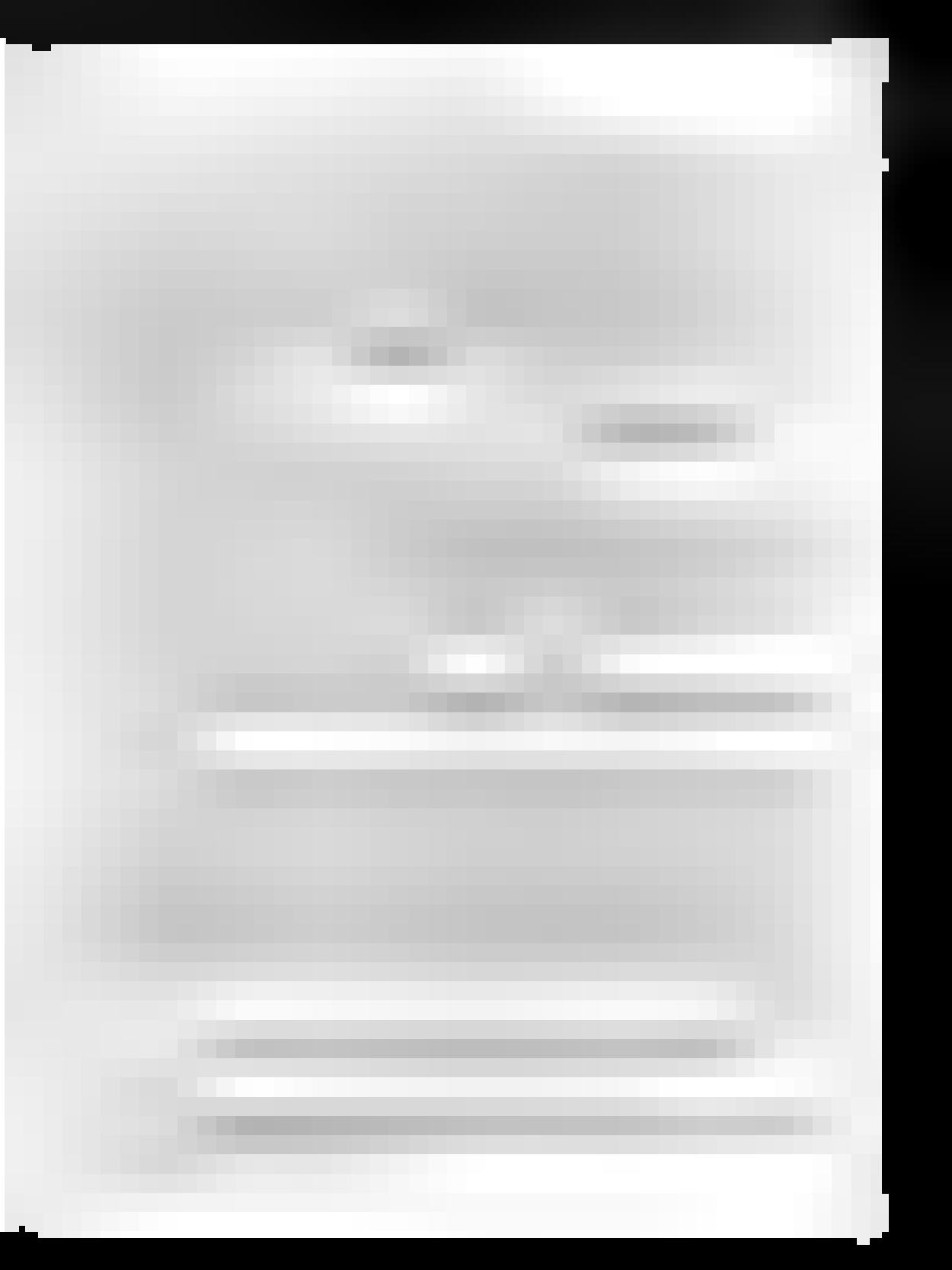

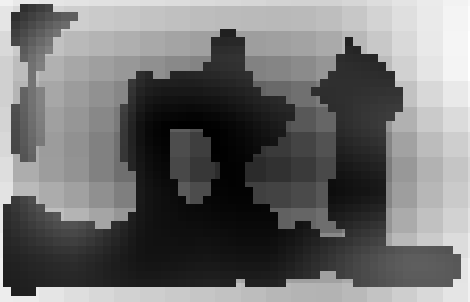

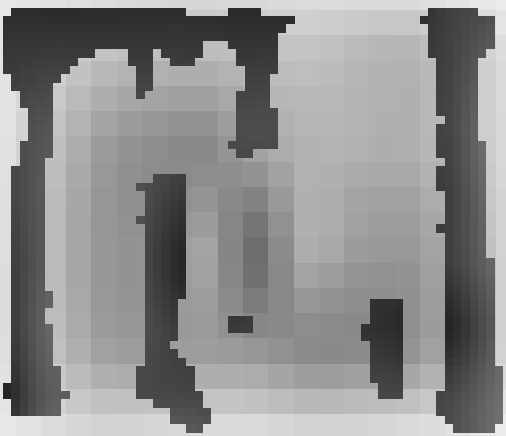

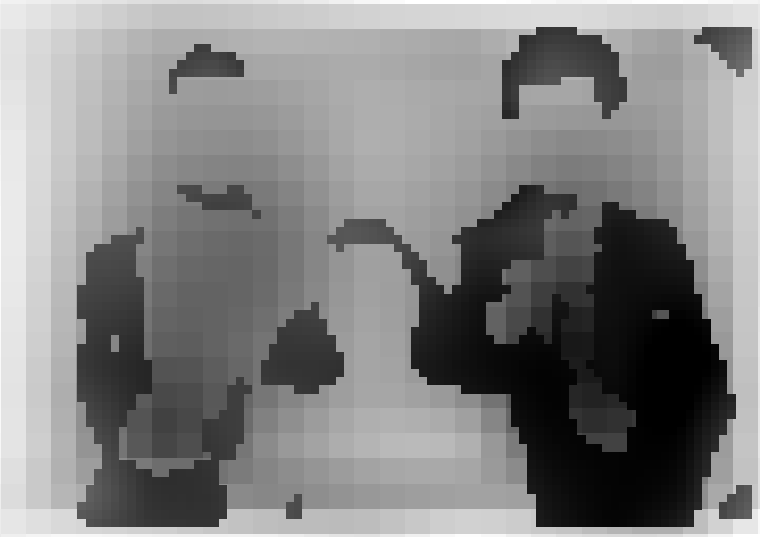

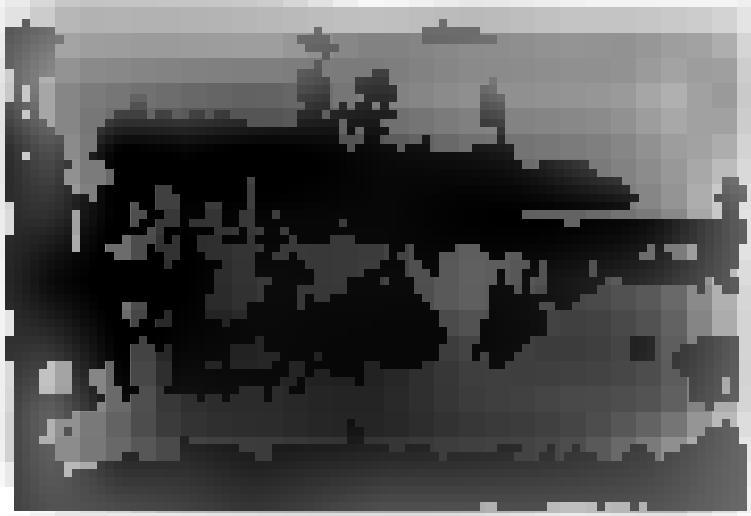

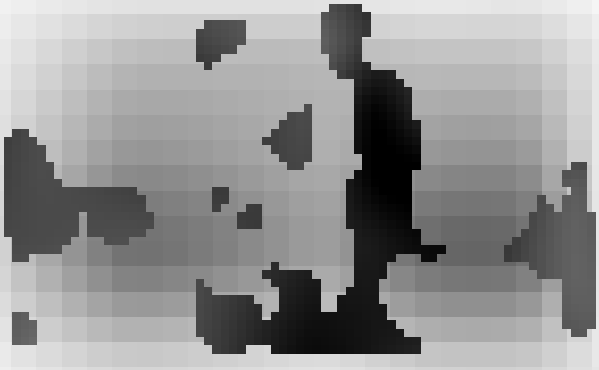

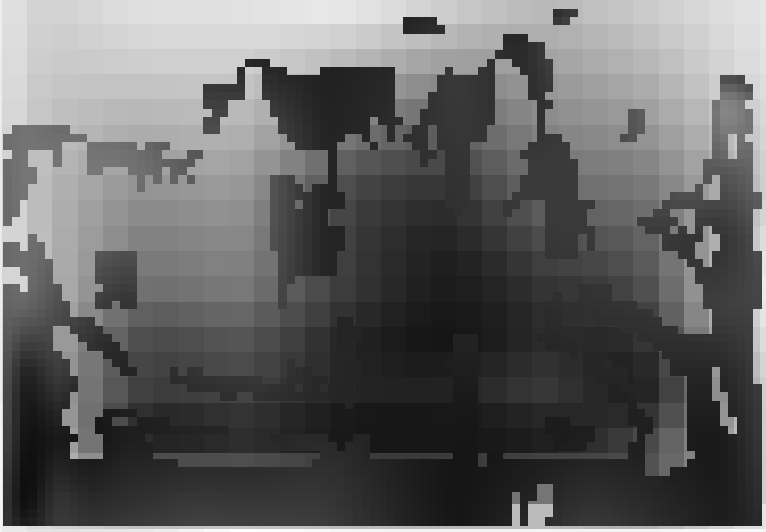

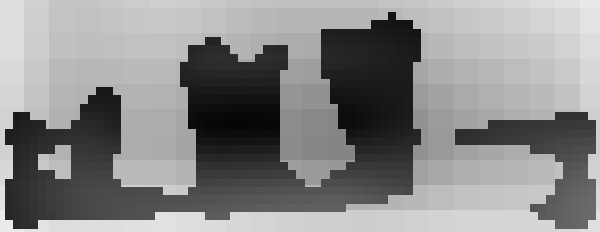

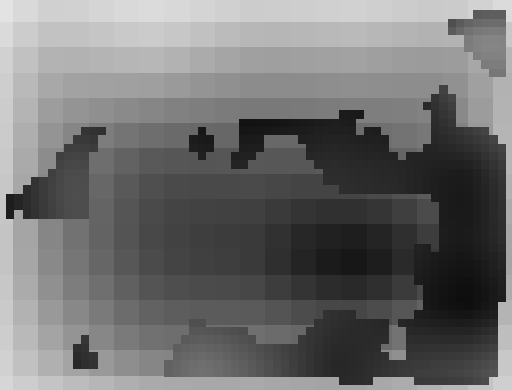

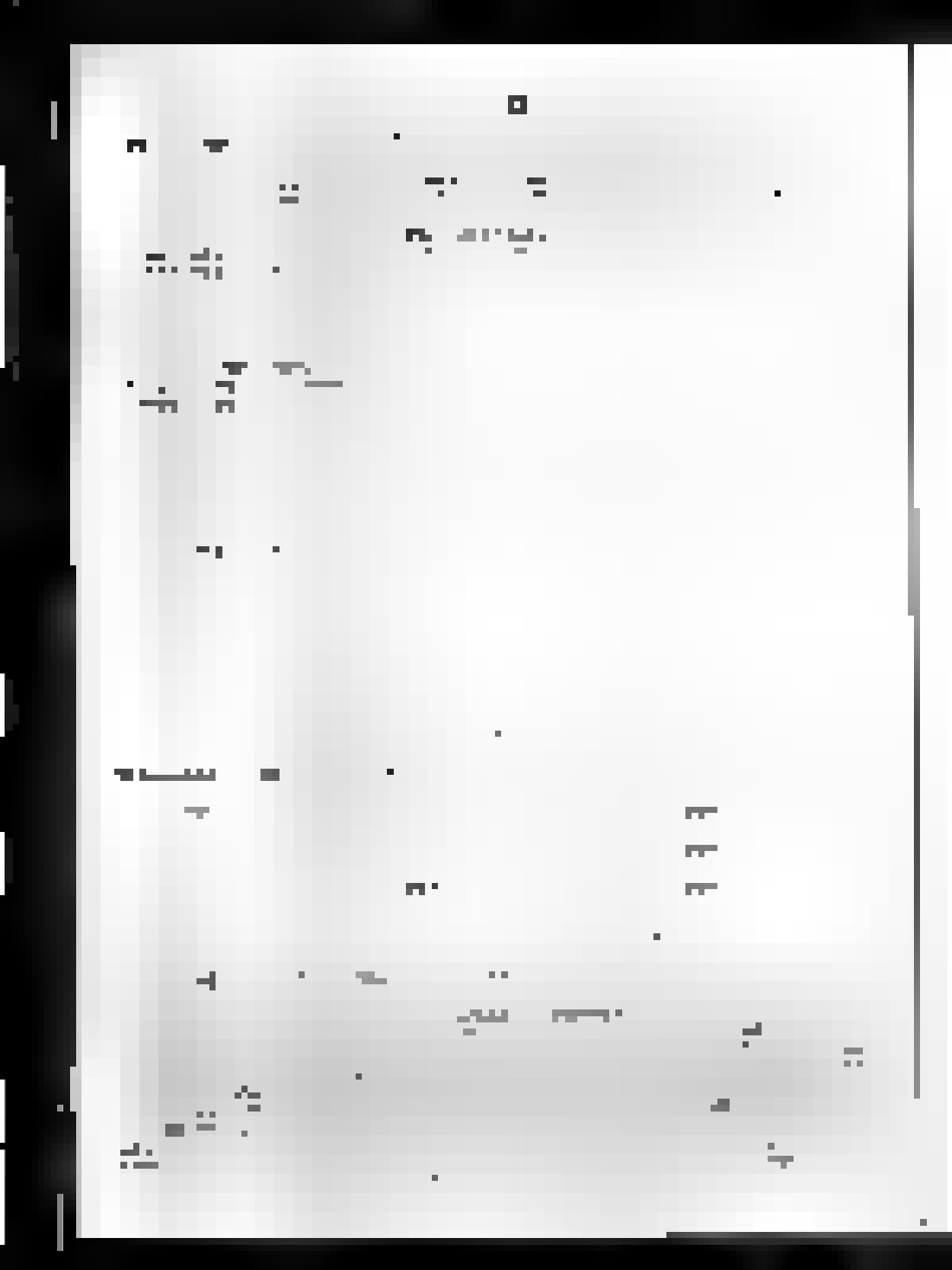

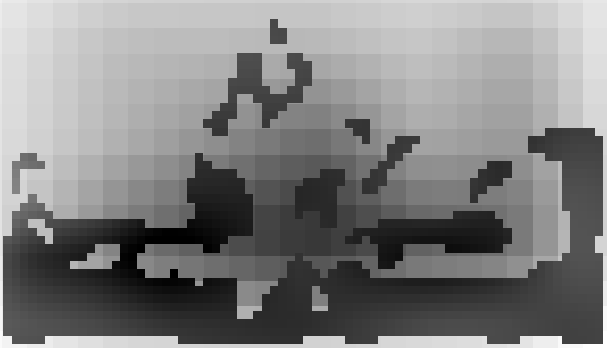

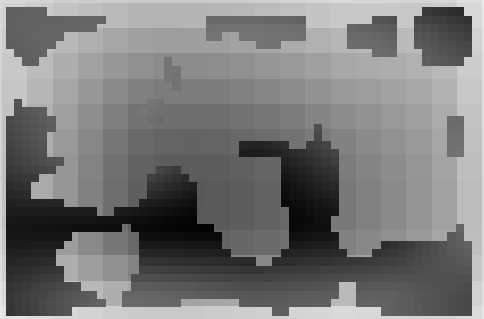

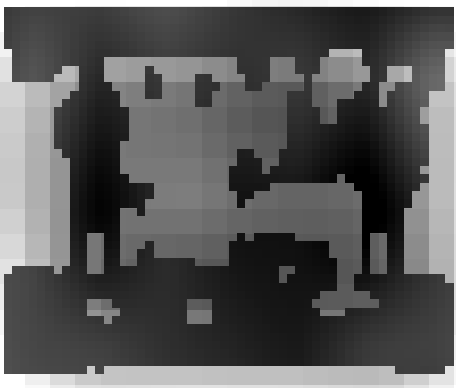

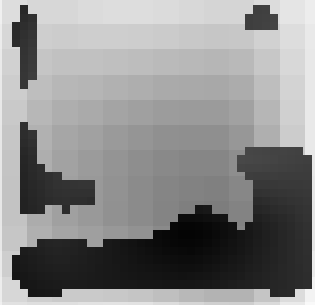

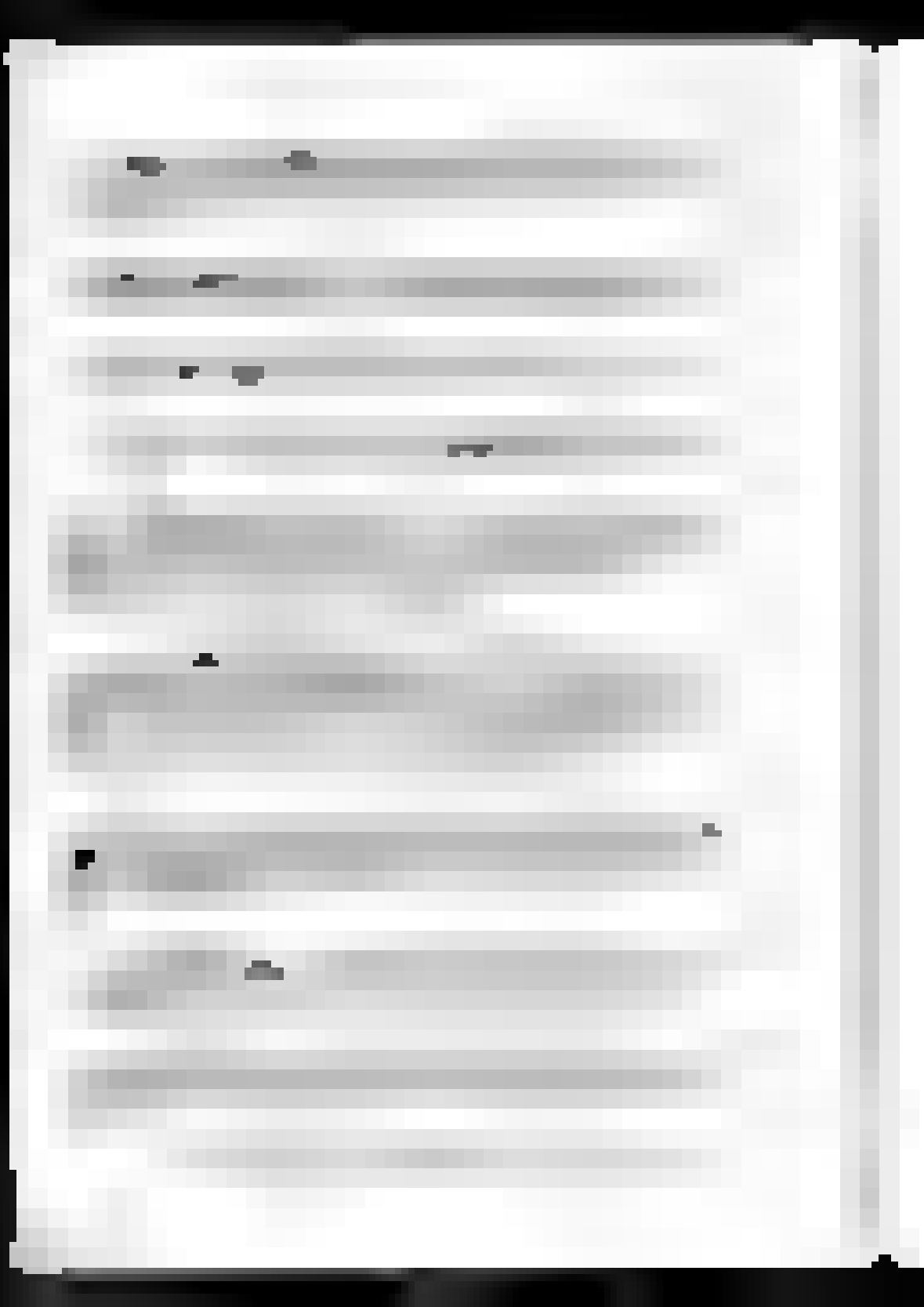

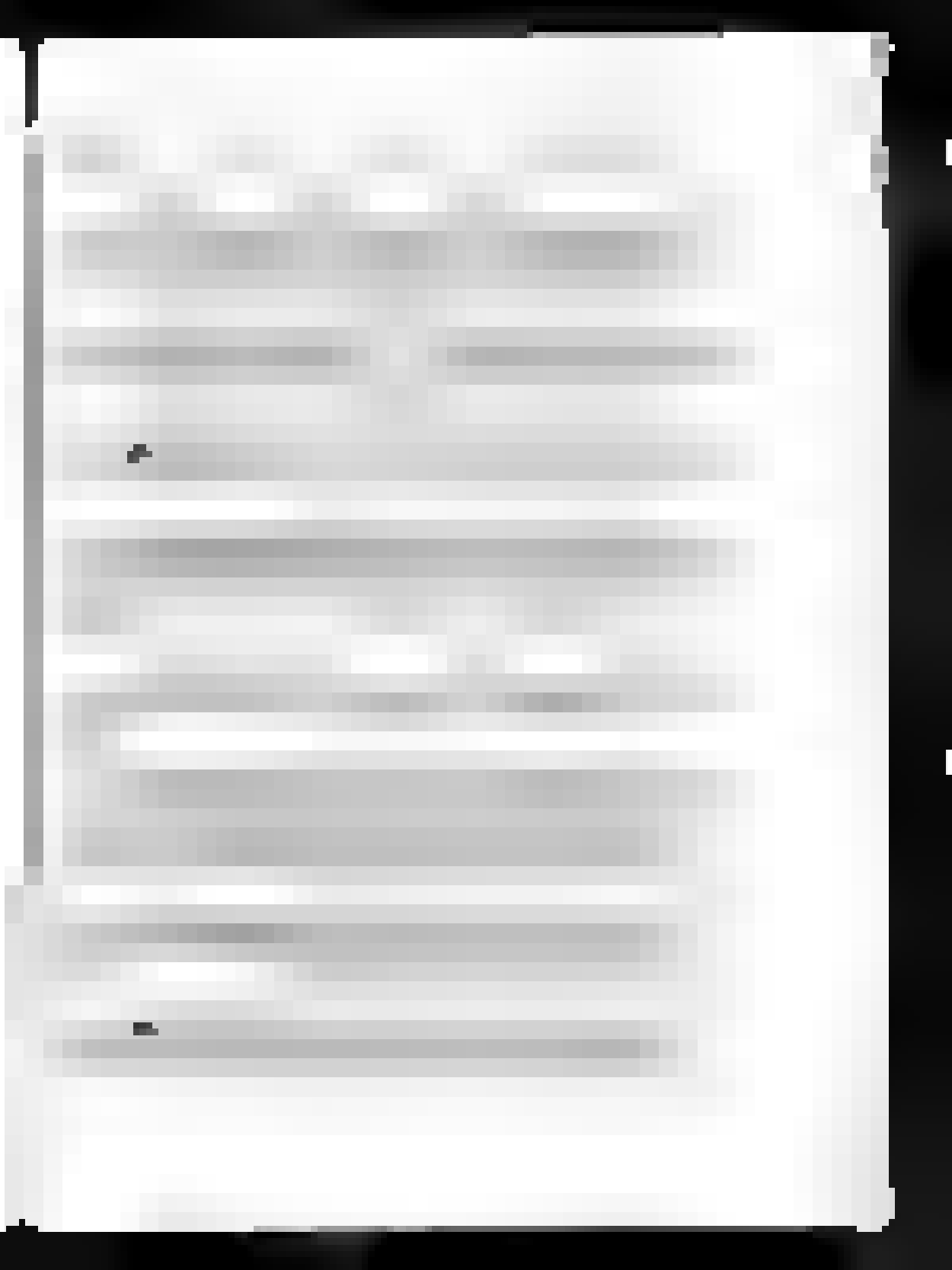

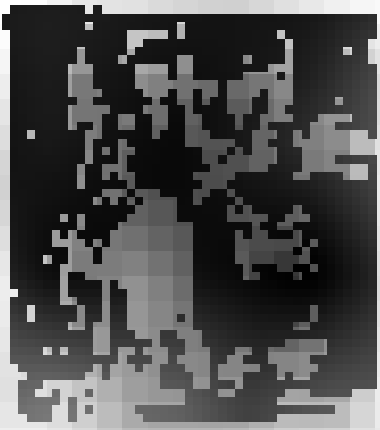

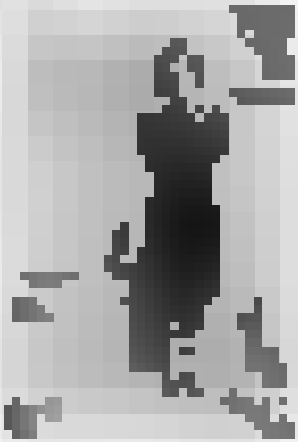

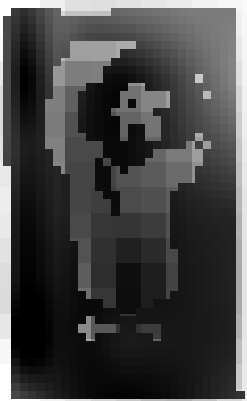

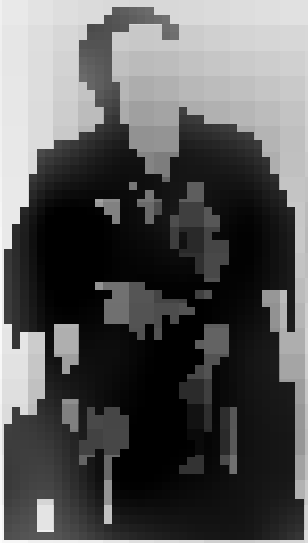

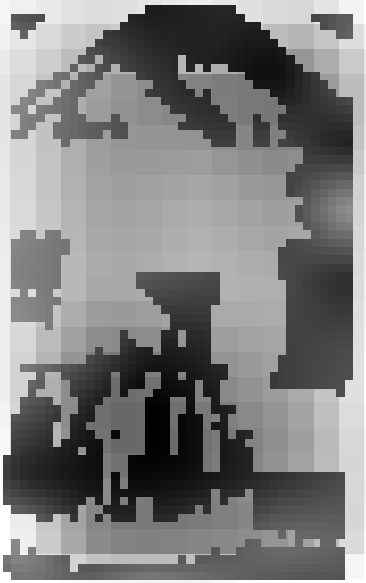

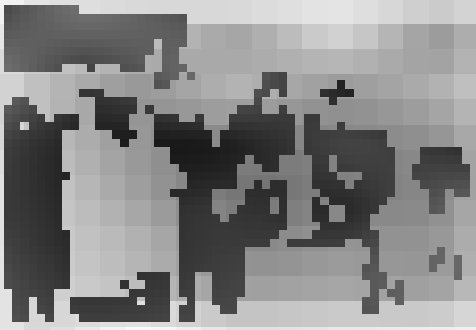

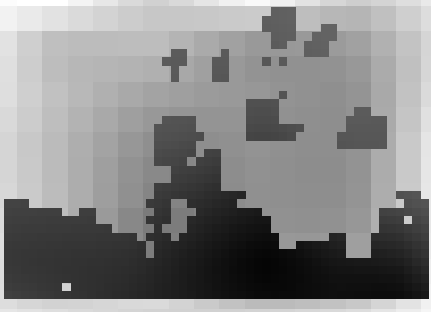

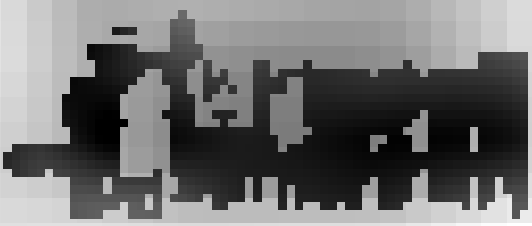

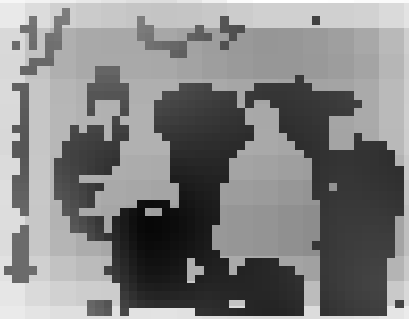

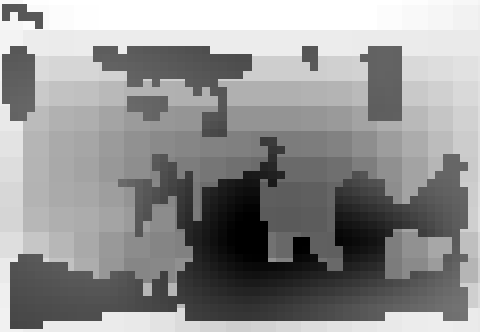

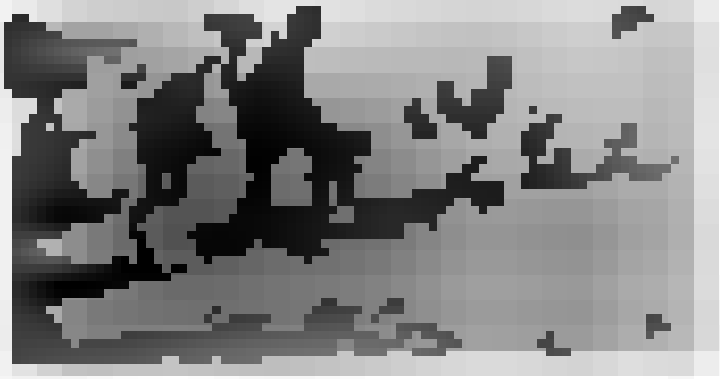

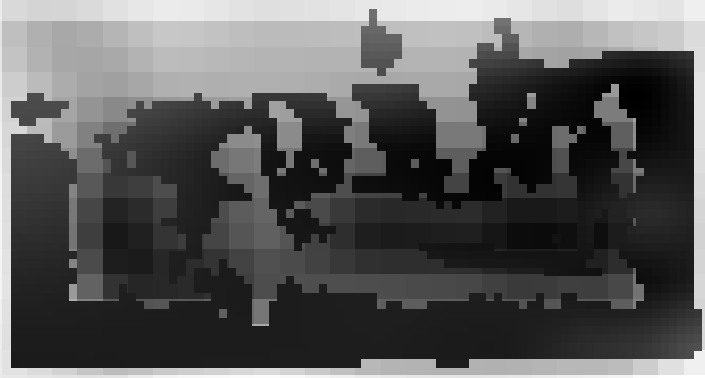

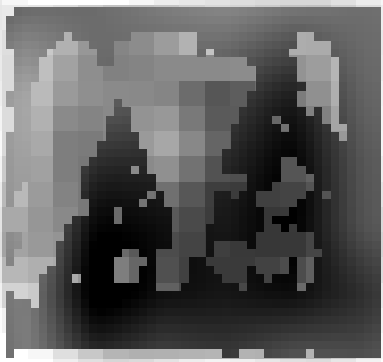

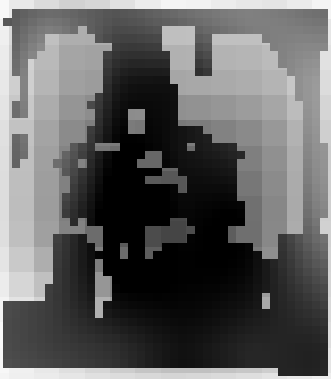

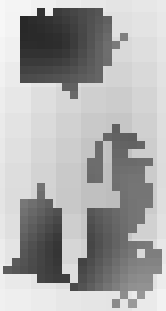

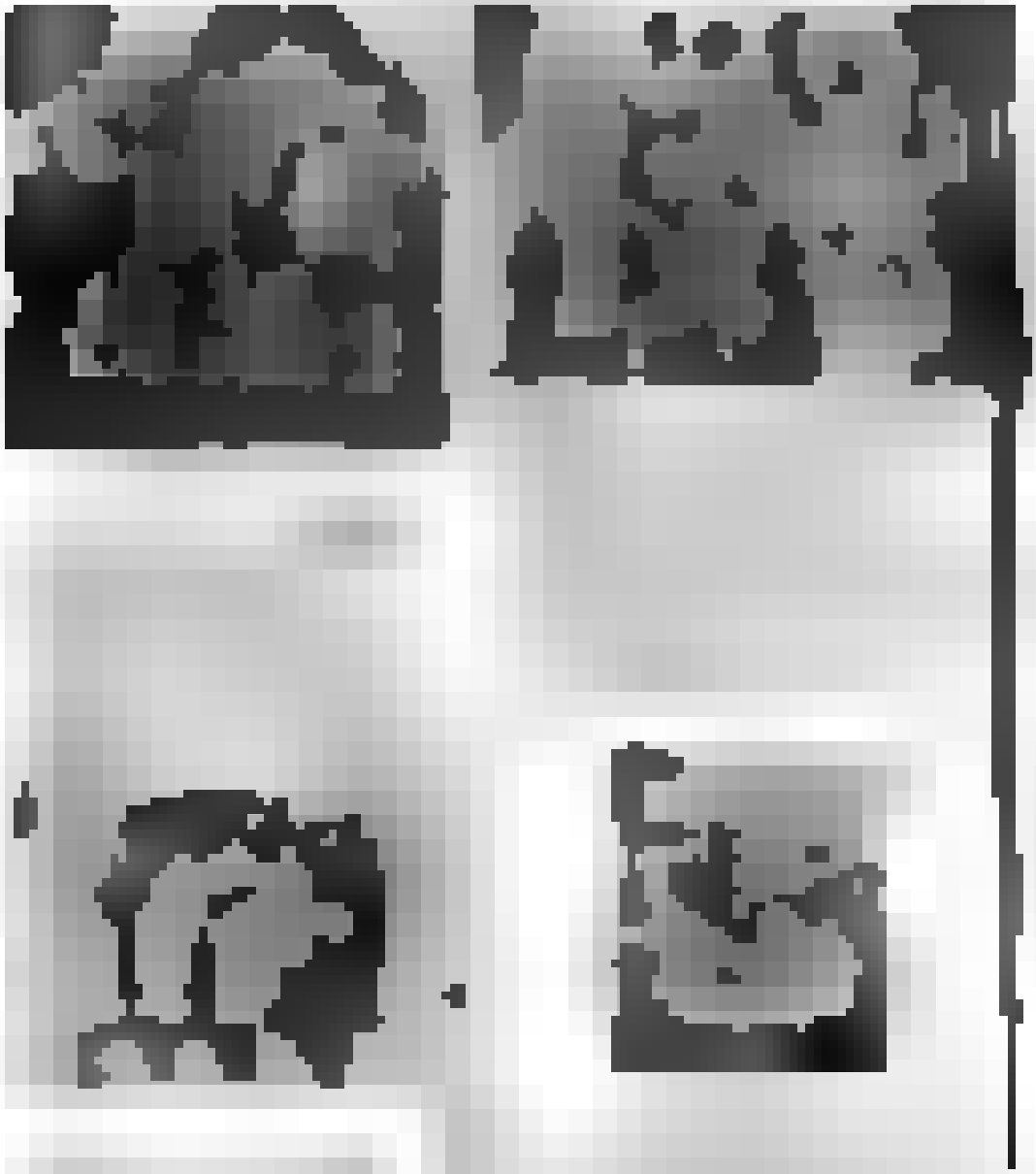

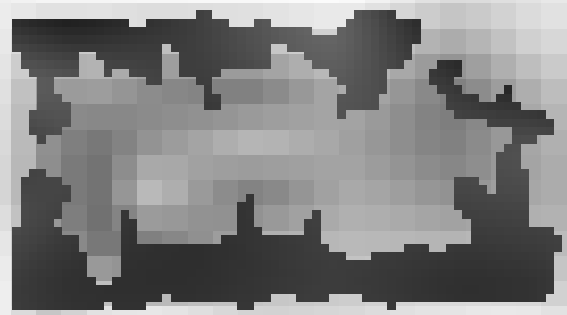

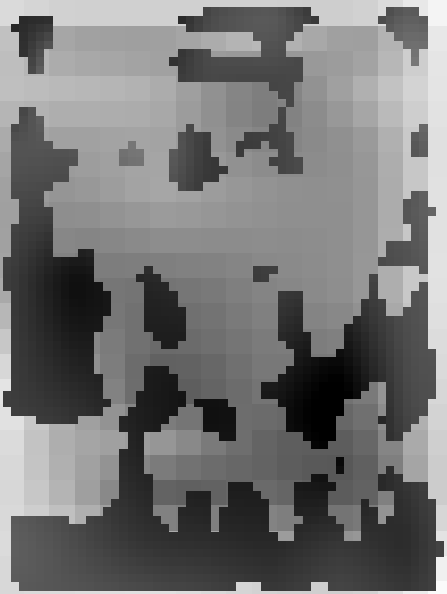

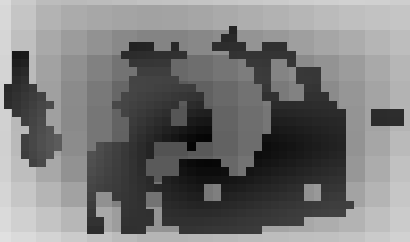

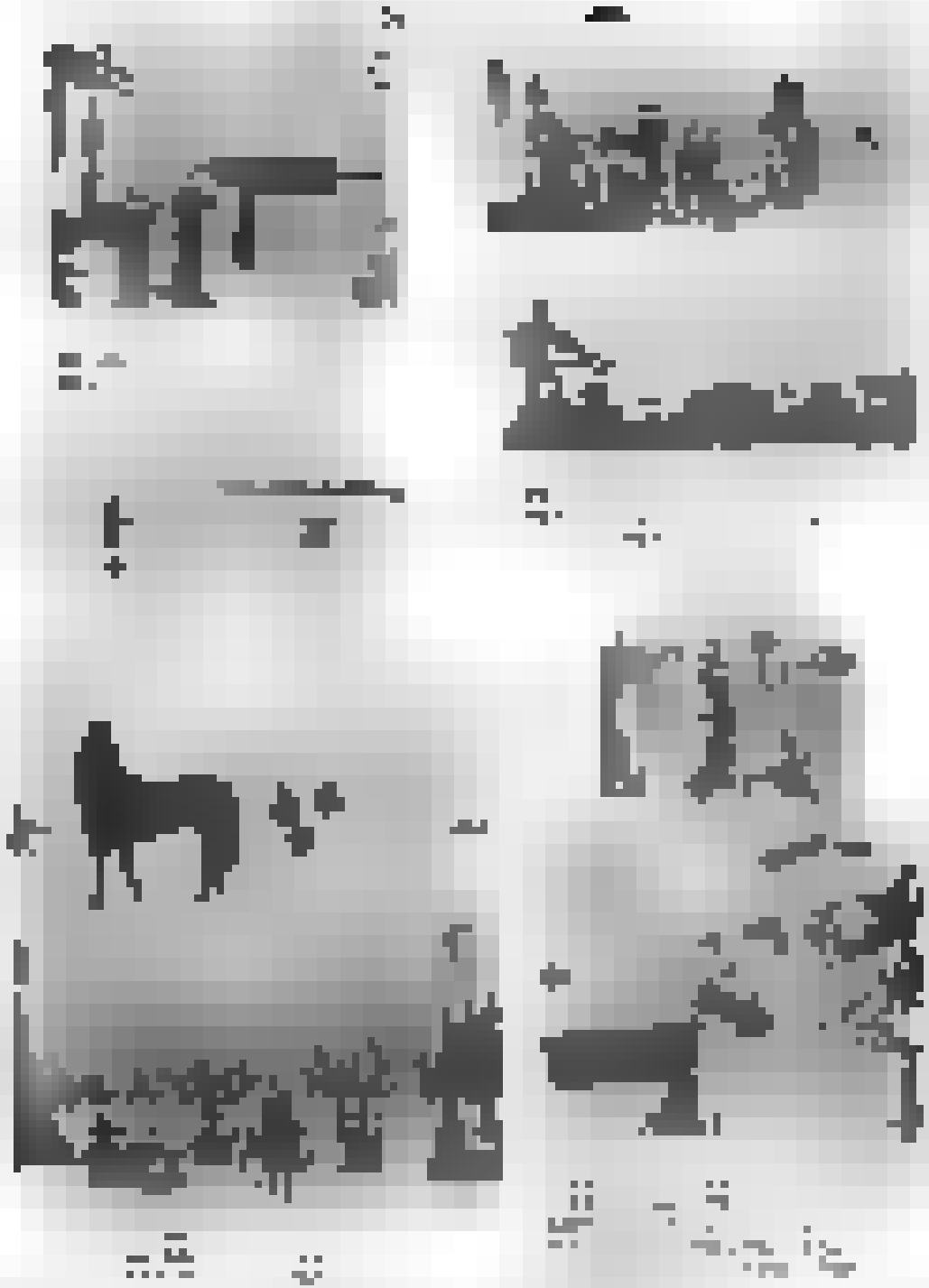

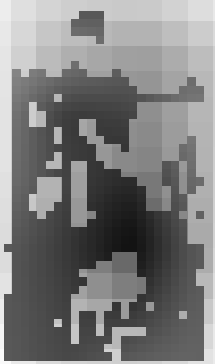

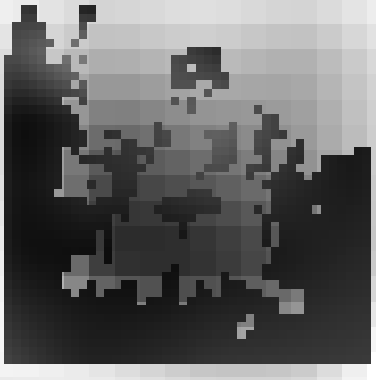

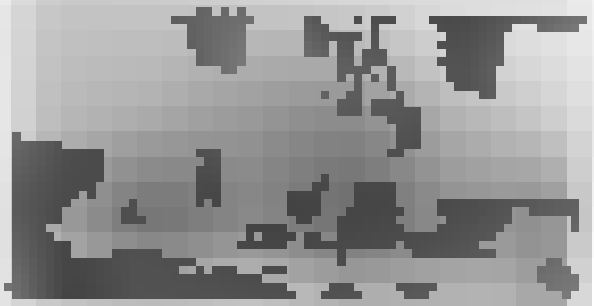

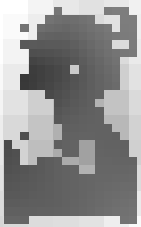

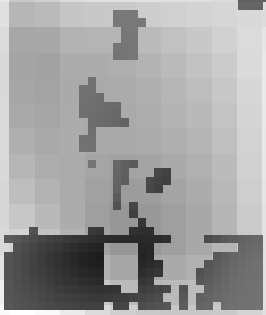

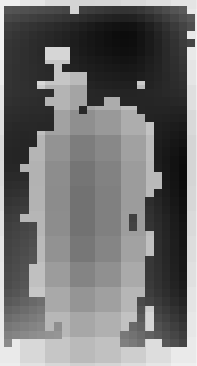

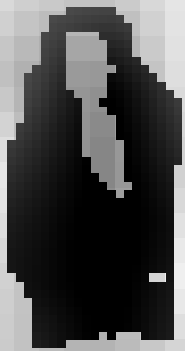

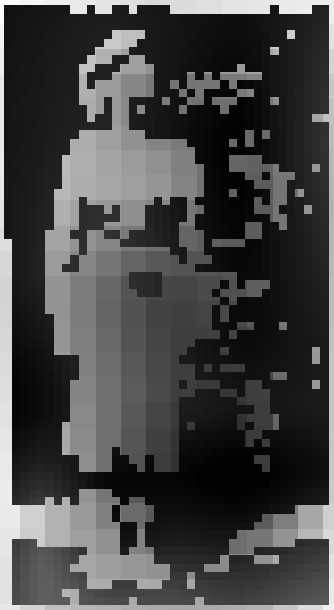

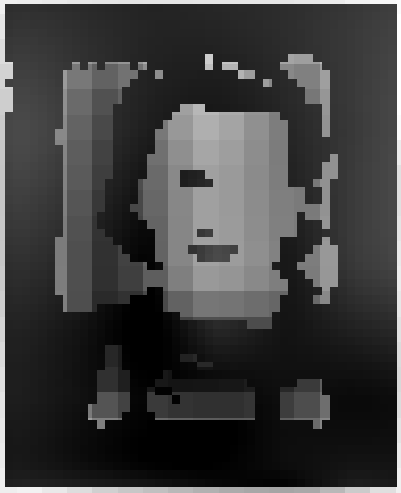

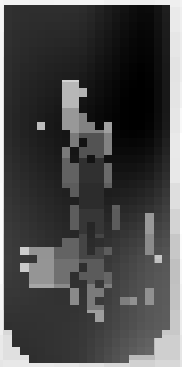

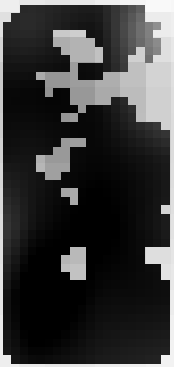

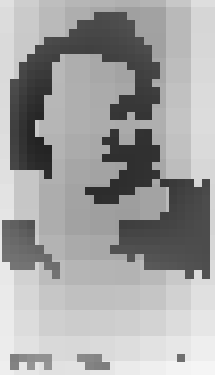

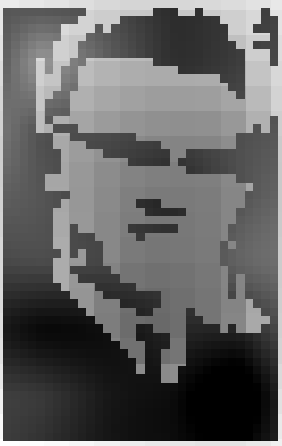

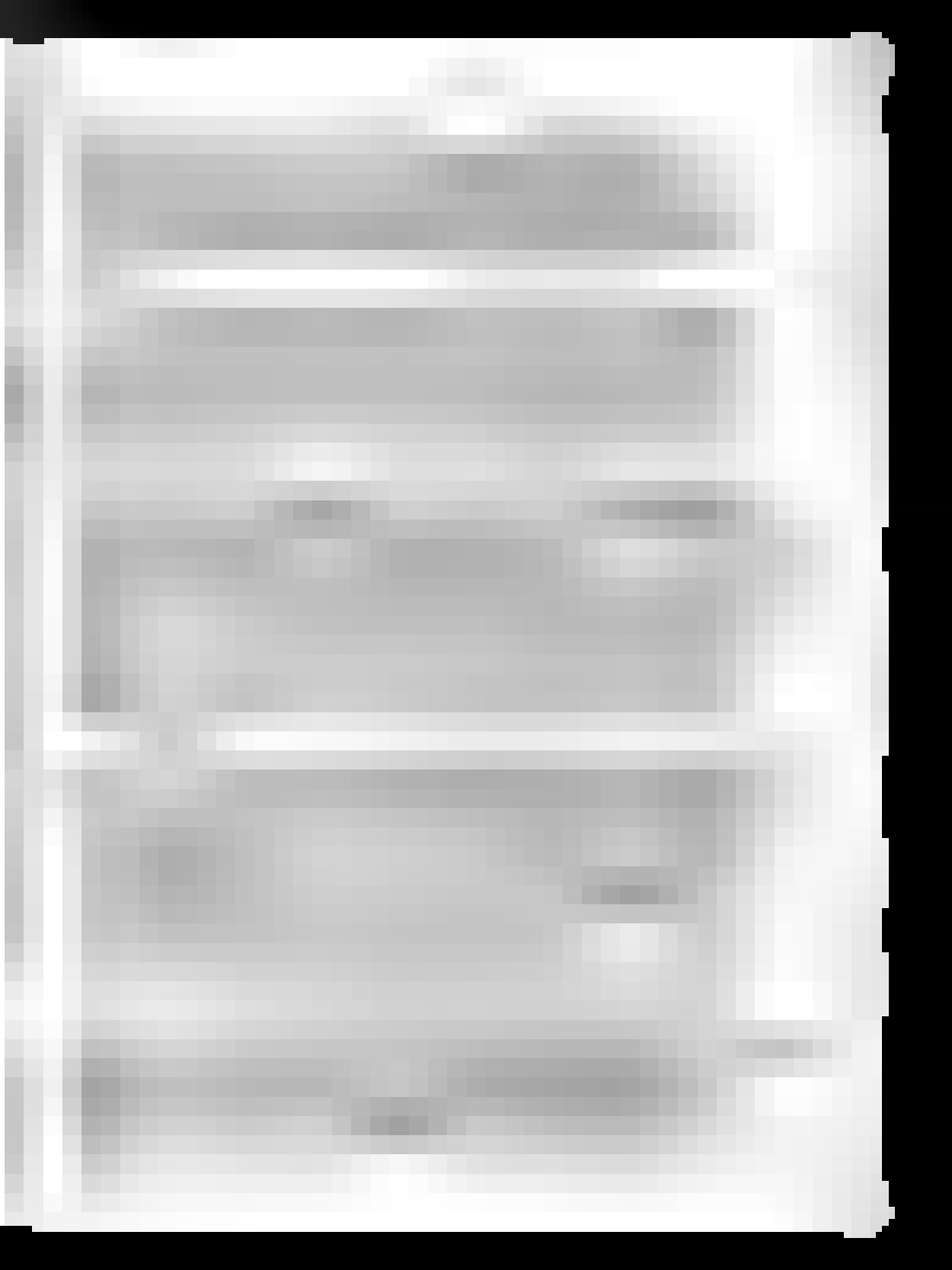

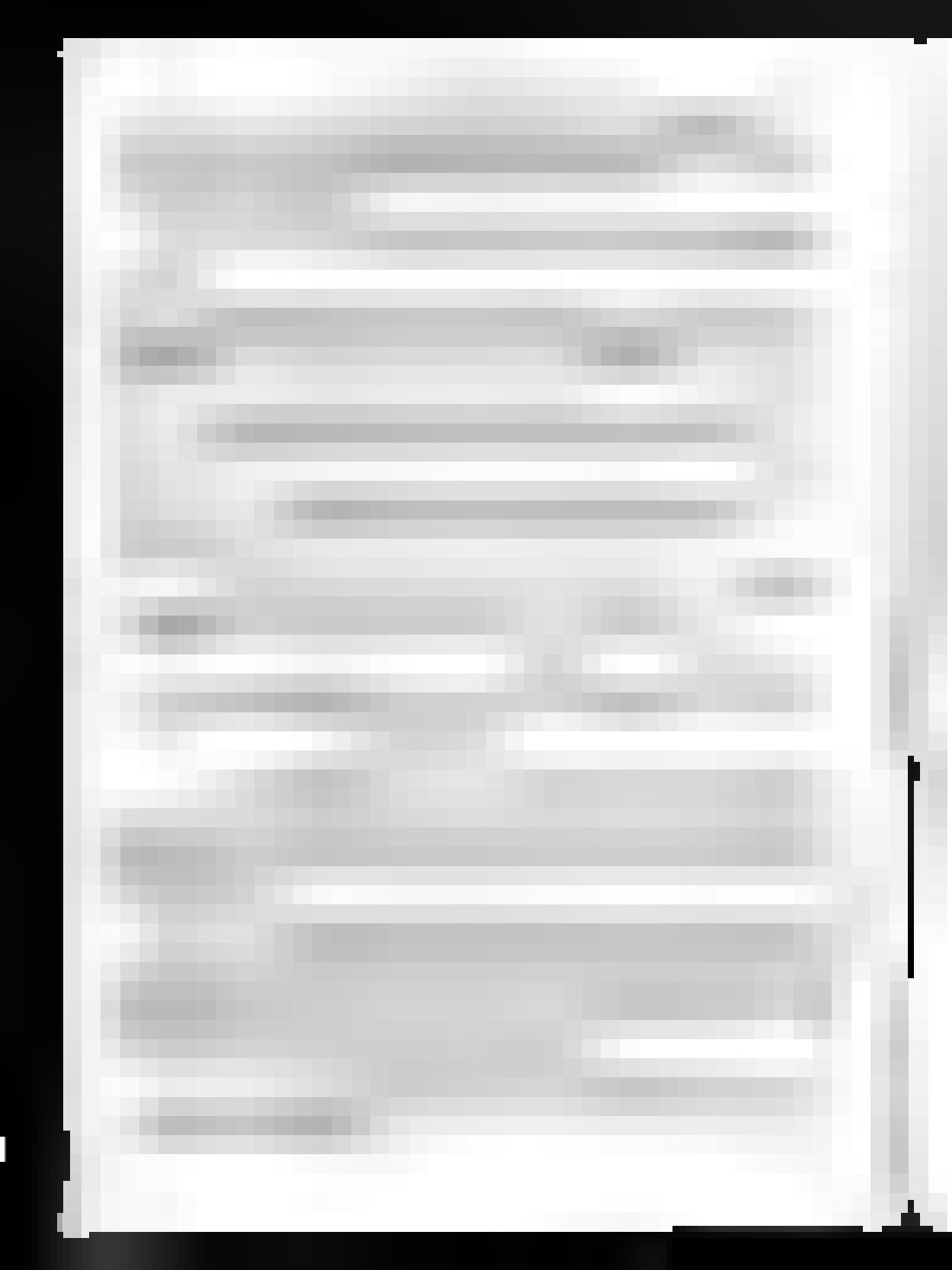

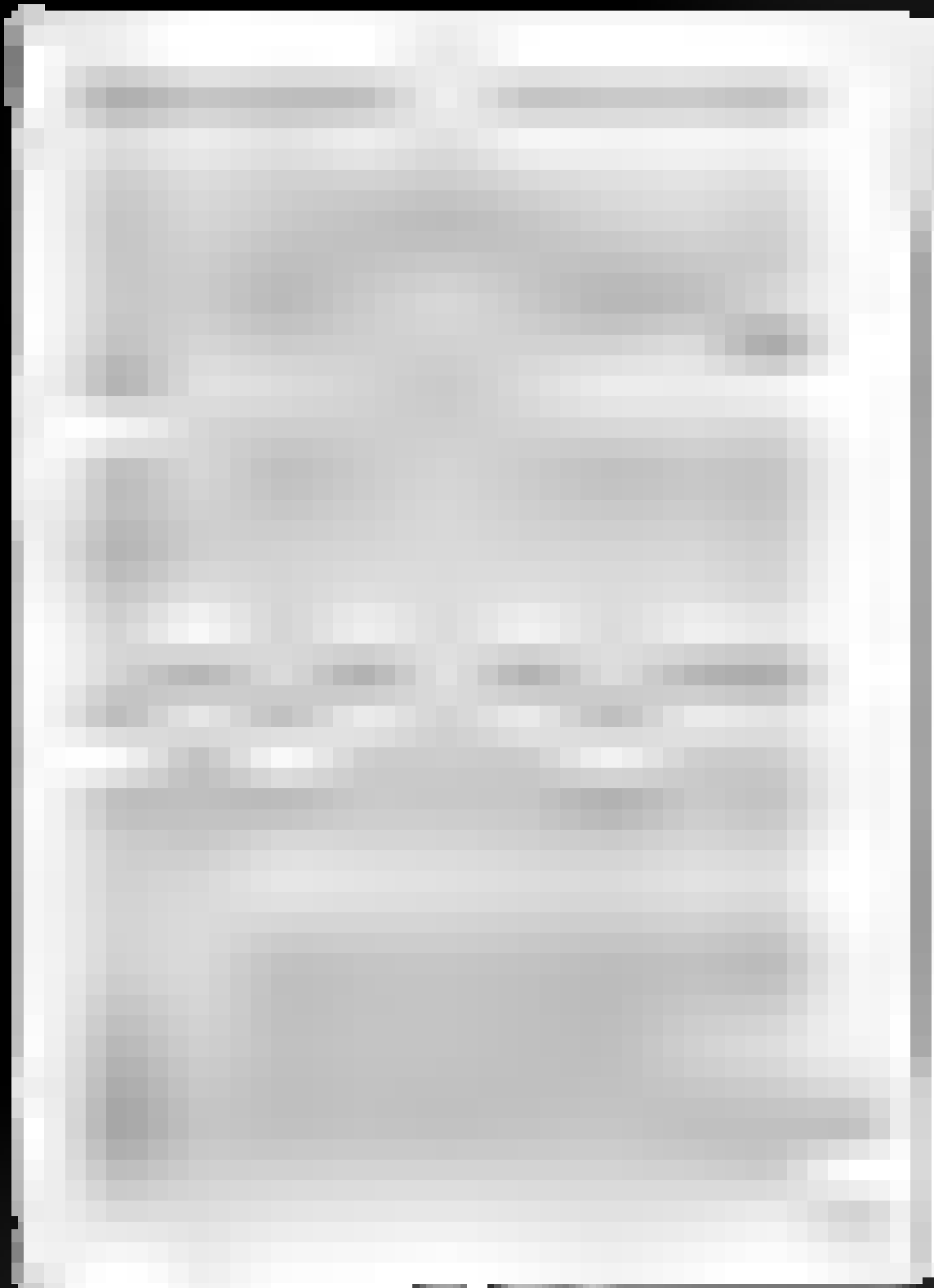

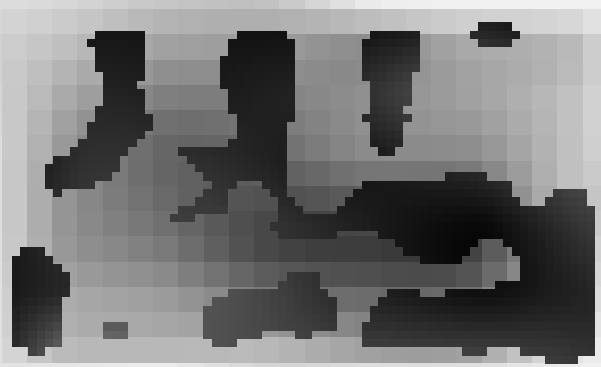

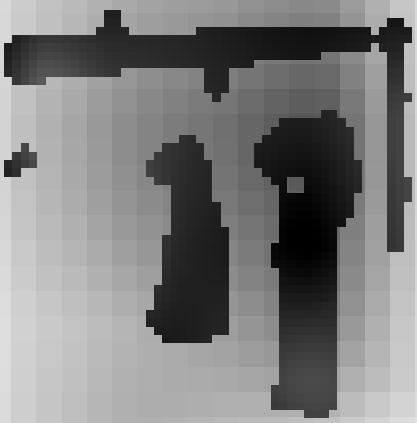

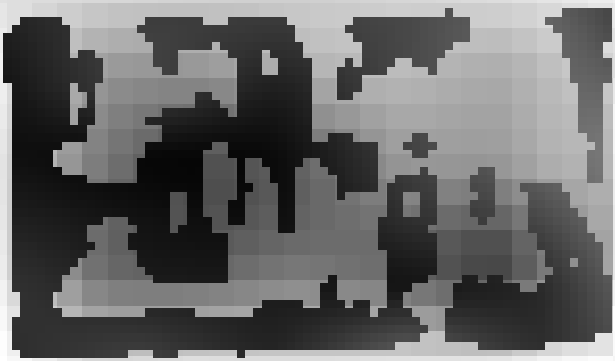

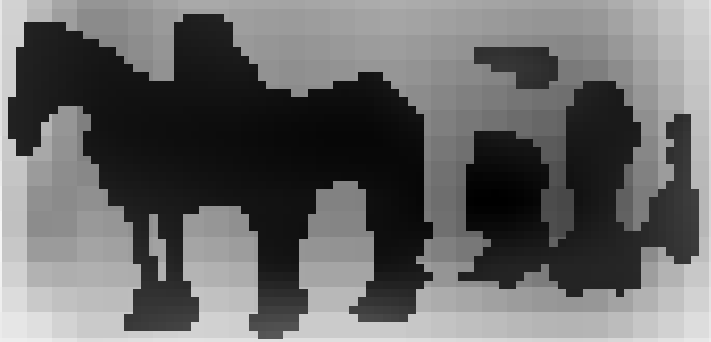

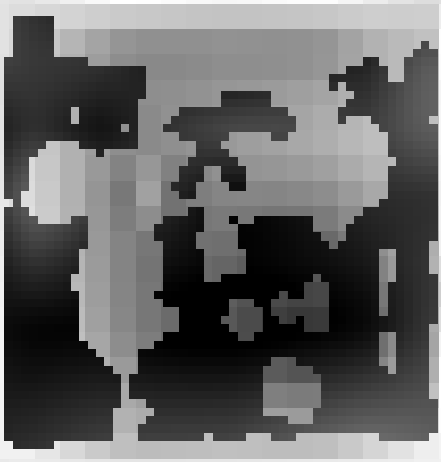

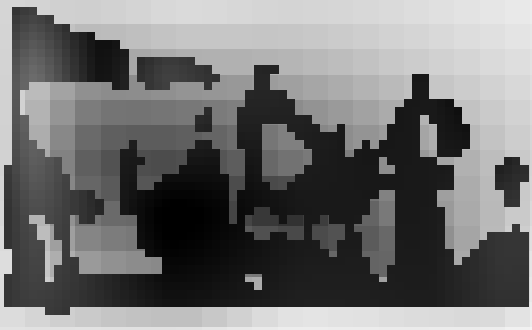

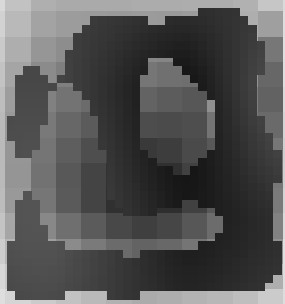

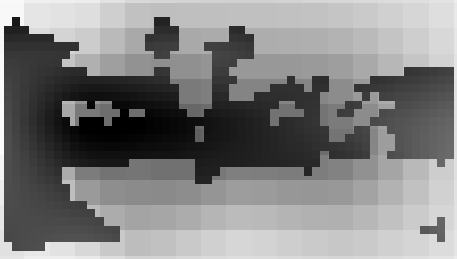

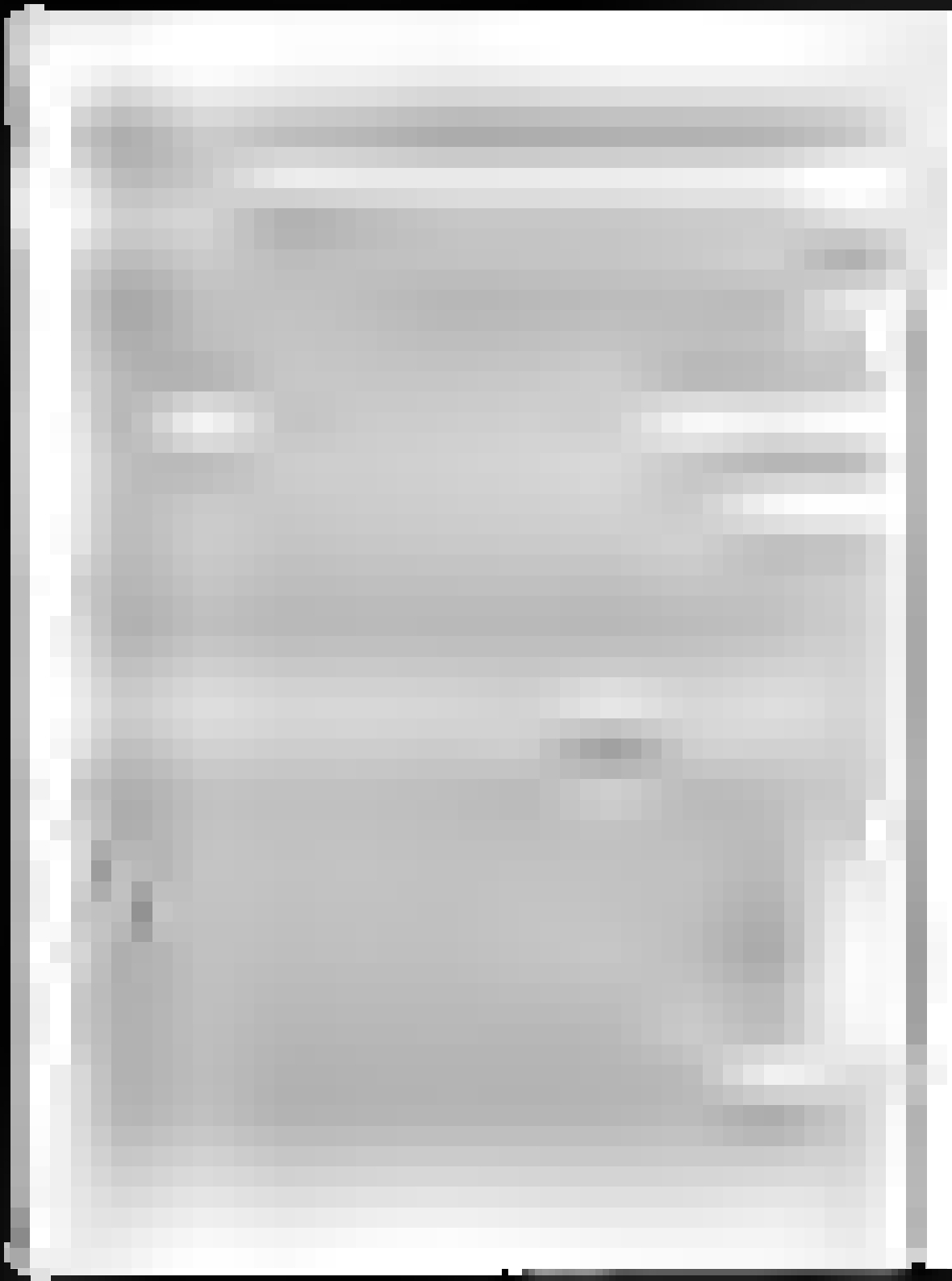

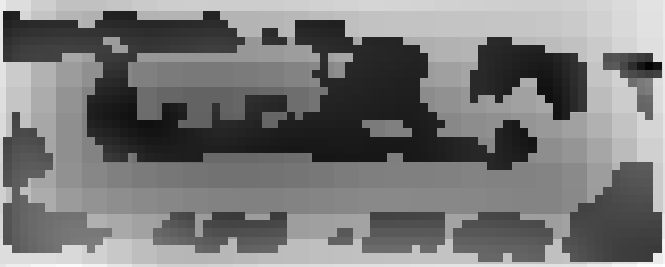

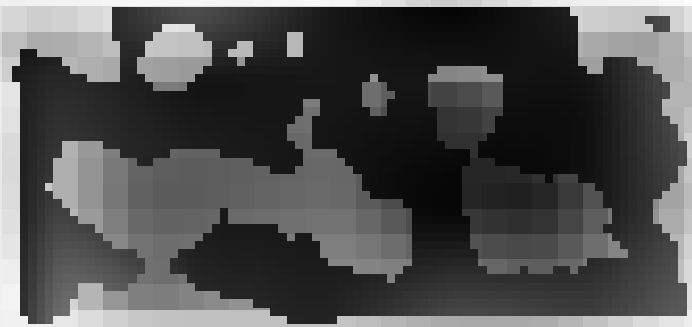

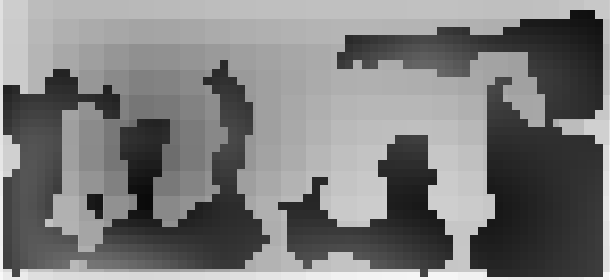

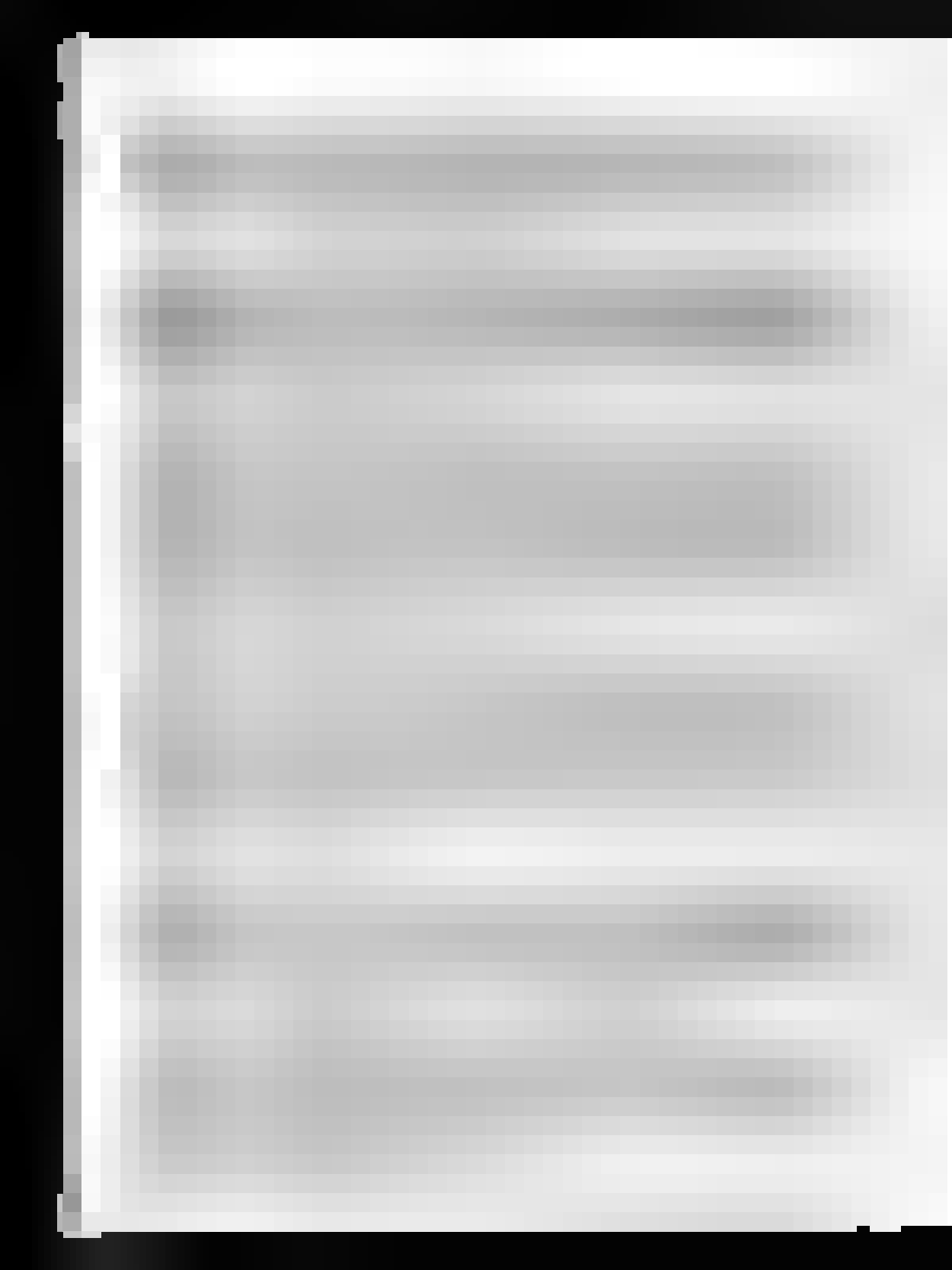

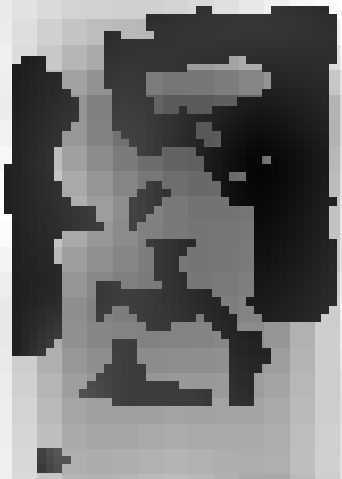

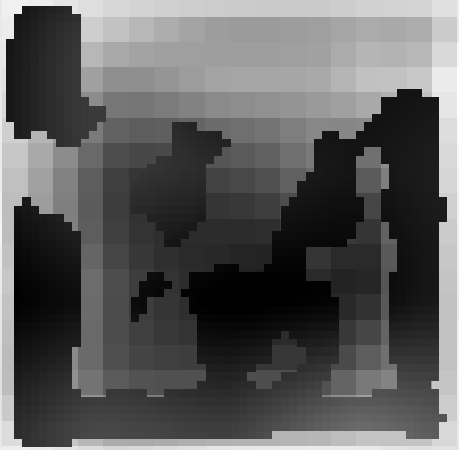

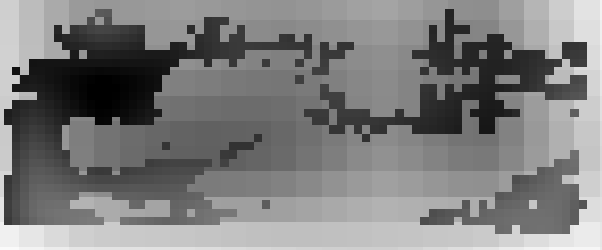

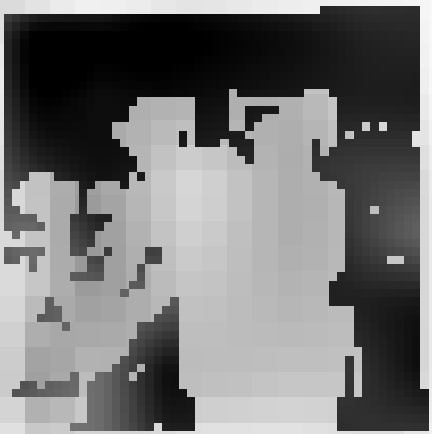

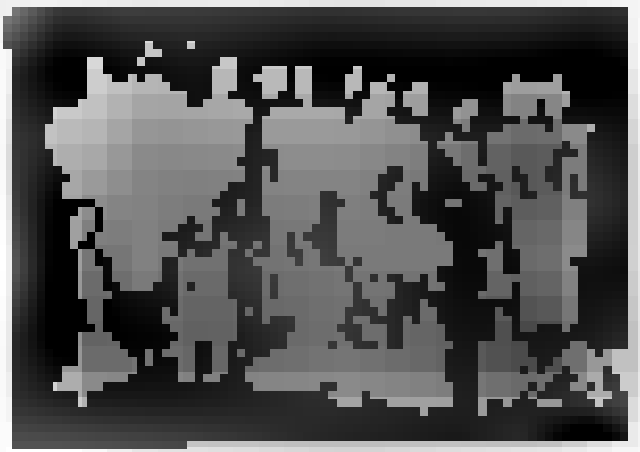

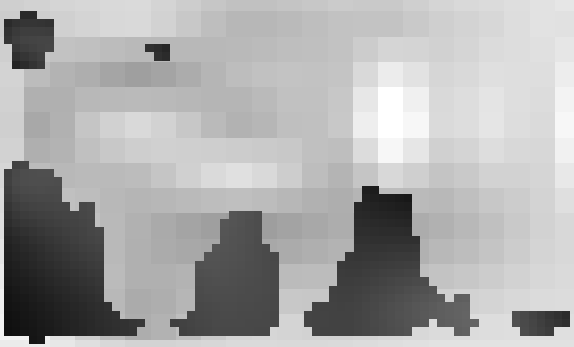

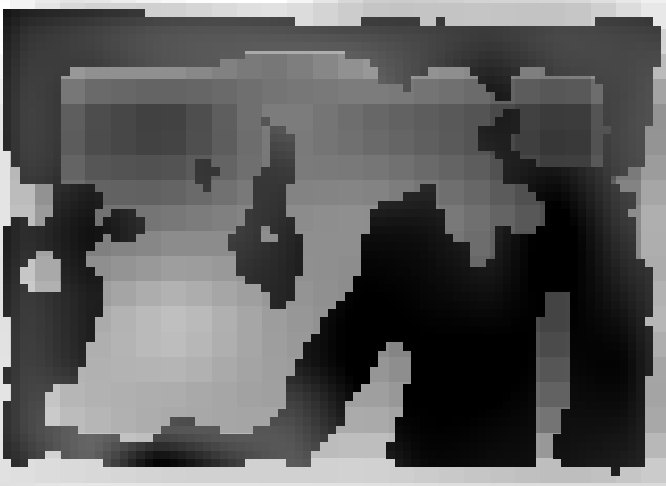

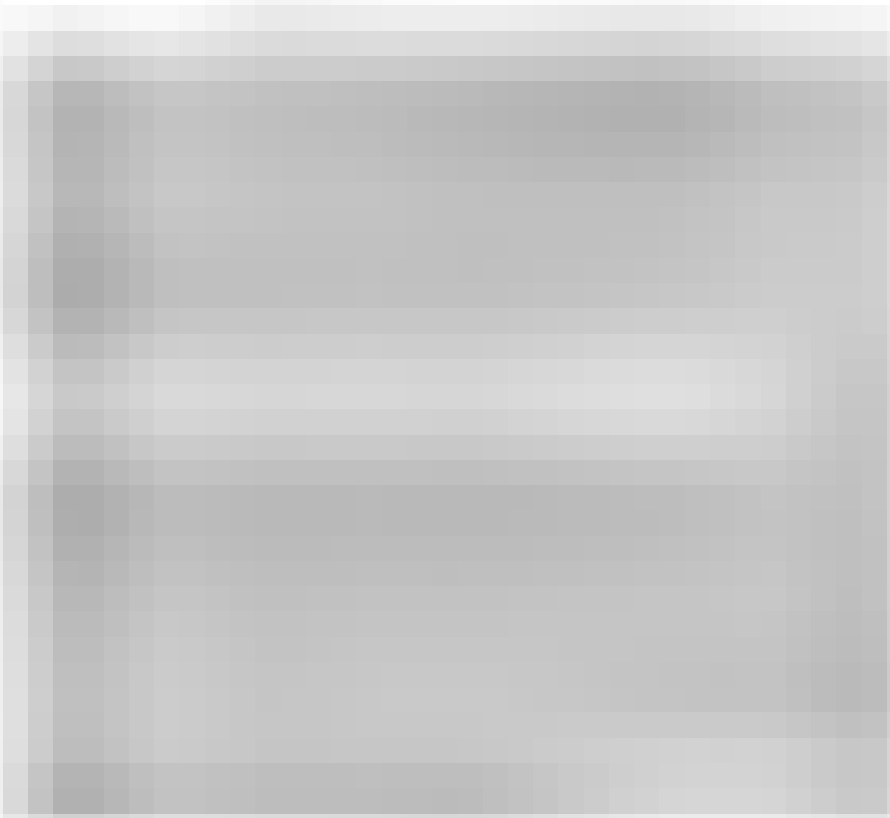

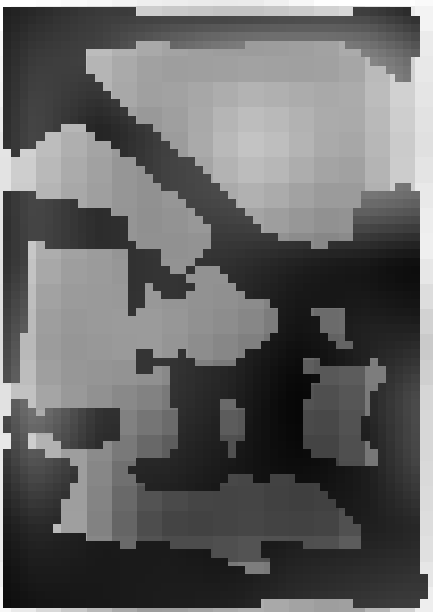

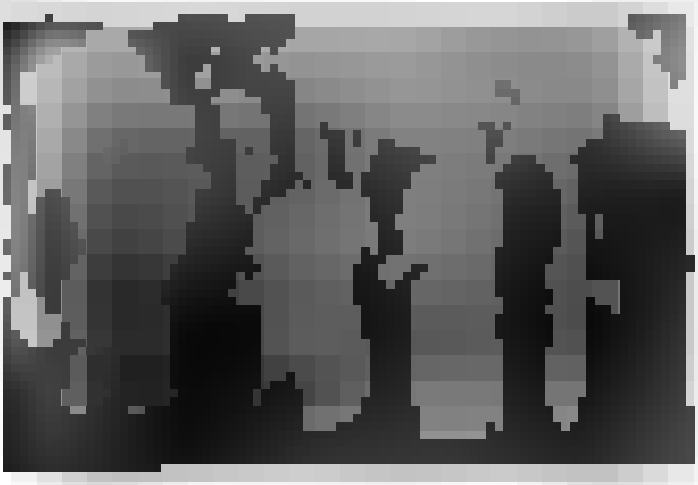

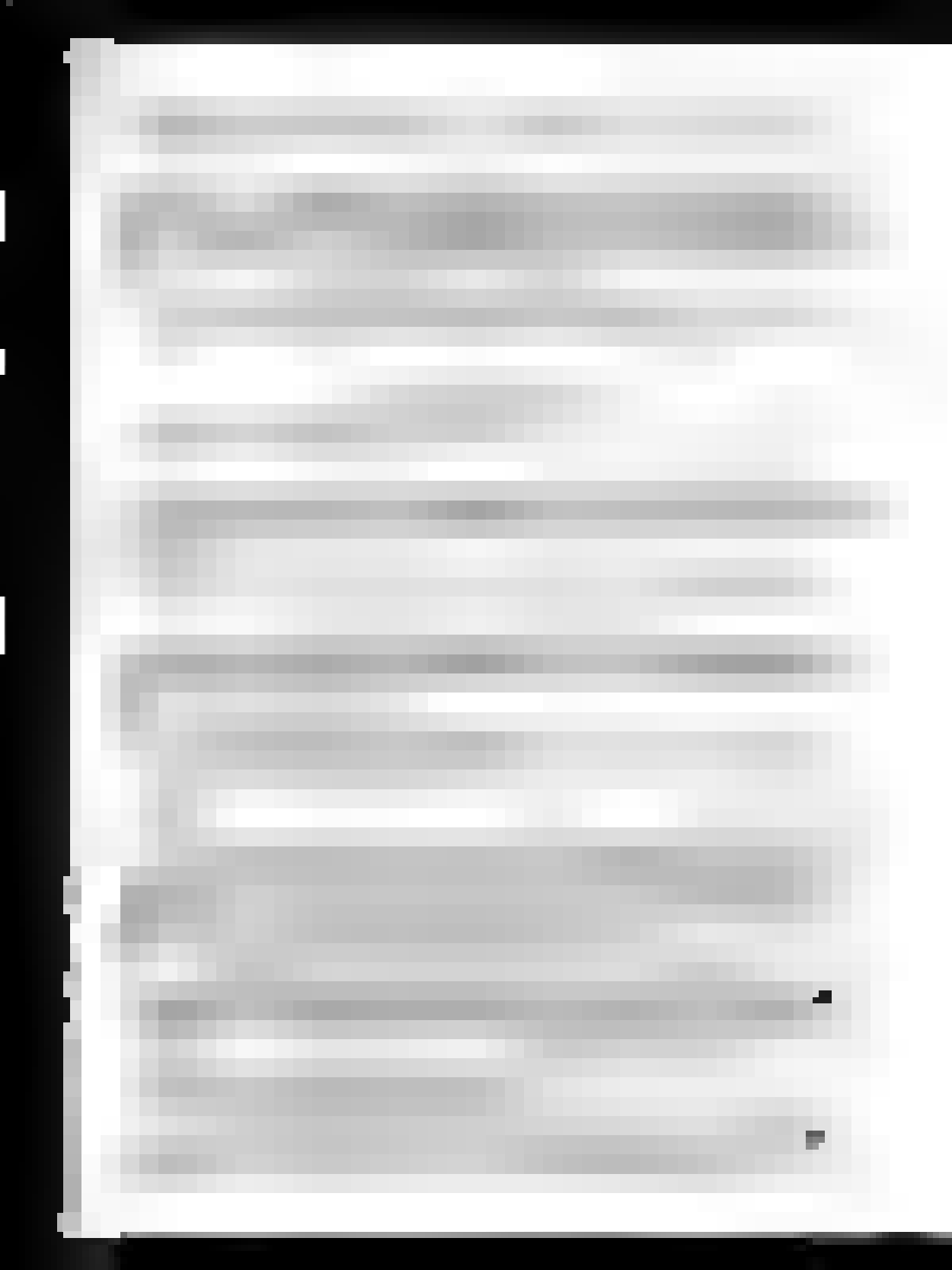

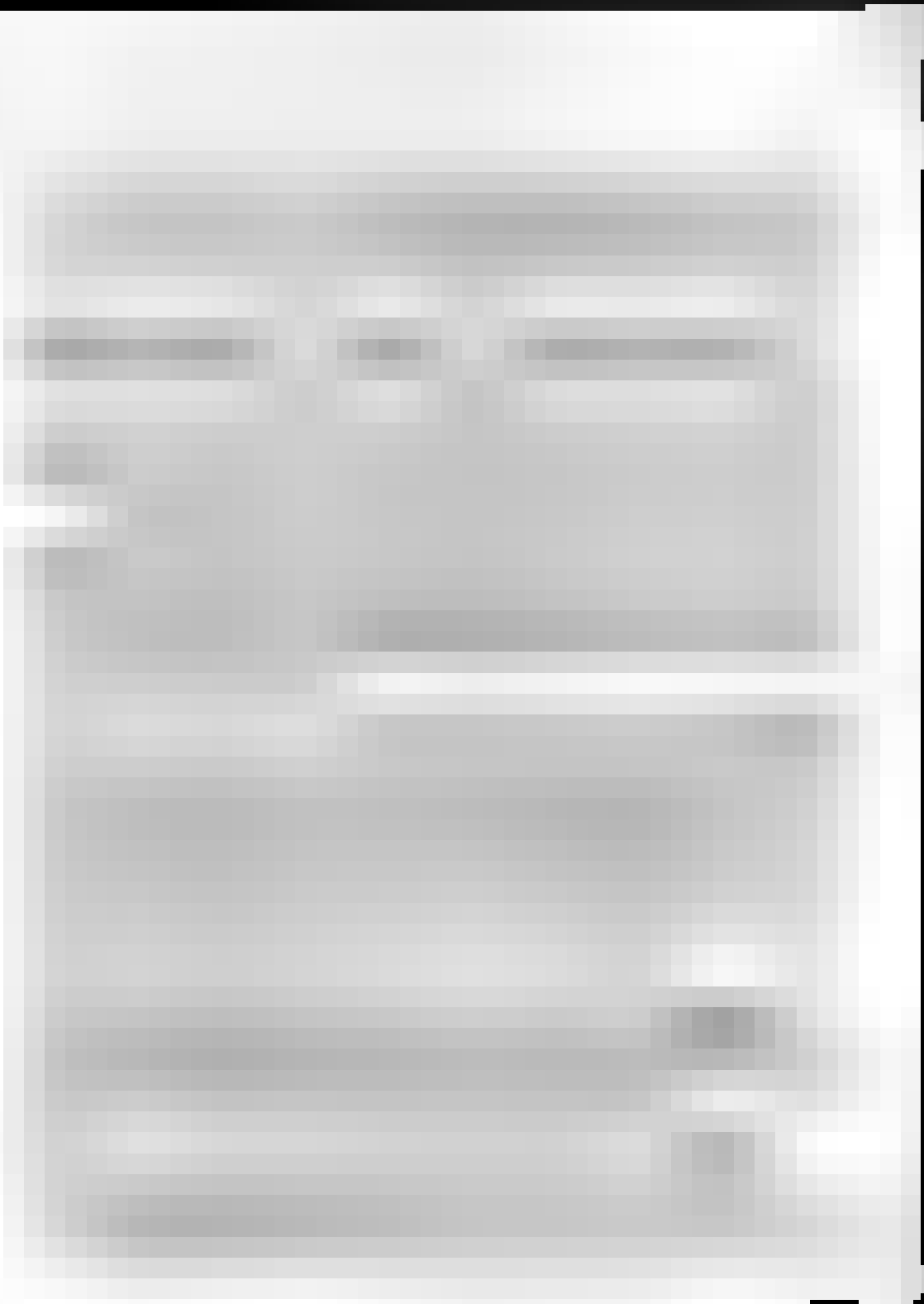

Above: Mr. and Mrs. [illegible]
[illegible]

Right: [illegible]
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